

## Iraqi-Americans to ship aid to homeland

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan (AP) — Iraqi-Americans and other Middle East immigrants have raised \$160,000 to pay for medical supplies for war-ravaged Iraq. "It's a people-to-people, humanitarian venture," Paul Vincent, president of Victims of War, said. "We're addressing it to the American public, anyone who is concerned about the plight of children." Some of the Detroit area's 50,000 Chaldeans, from a Christian minority in Iraq, formed the fund-raising organization with Arab and non-Arab Muslim groups to raise \$200,000, and have already got four-fifths of that, Vincent said. Victims of War hopes to raise an additional \$1 million by April, he said. Vincent said he was hopeful the Bush administration would allow the medical supplies to be sent to Iraq. He said White House Chief of Staff John Sununu told an Arab-American medical group that approval was likely. White House press officials didn't immediately return a call seeking comment. Vincent said conditions in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, where bomb damage has left no fresh water or electricity, make ideal conditions for epidemic diseases. "The situation is so acute that surgeries, amputations are being performed without anesthesia," Vincent said.



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## Syria, Egypt welcome call, Israel muted Jordan, PLO see positive elements in Bush's call for Middle East peace

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN said Friday it saw many positive elements in U.S. President George Bush's call for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"For the first time the United States is explicitly calling for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," a senior official said. The two resolutions, accepted by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but rejected by Israel, call for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory in return for peace.

"Bush also insisted on compliance with U.N. resolutions and recognized that the Palestinians had legitimate political rights and these are positive elements," the official told Reuters.

Bush said in a speech Wednesday the allied victory in the Gulf war had set the stage for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordanian official noted that the U.S. president, riding on a historic tide of popularity at home, had chosen Congress as a platform for his call to end the 43-year-old conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The timing of the speech, on the eve of a Middle East visit by U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker, added more significance, he said.

But Bush did not mention the PLO, which Arabs and most of the international community see as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative in any peace talks, and did not specifically refer to any international Middle East peace conference.

Israel on Thursday dismissed Bush's speech, while the PLO welcomed what it called its "positive elements."

Israel, fearing it might have to give up Arab territories it took from Jordan, Egypt and Syria during the 1967 Middle East war, has not accepted Resolution 242 and opposes the peace conference, which is backed by the European Community.

Jordan was officially neutral in the Gulf war, but massive public support for Iraq temporarily strained its relations with Western and Arab allies.

Jordan is concerned that attempts by some Arab countries in the anti-Iraq coalition, mainly Egypt and Syria, to discredit the PLO and deny it a role in any future talks as a punishment for its pro-Iraqi stand.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Jordan was not surprised by Israel's dismissal of Bush's peace call. "What really counts is to see how the world is

going to deal with this Israeli rejection," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Masri said the United States and the world community had to show the same commitment to implementing U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict as it showed on those to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

And in a reference to U.S. bias in favour of Israel, the Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i dismissed Bush's offer as a ploy to absorb Arab anger at the lack of U.S. action on the Palestinian problem (see page 4 for Arabic newspapers reaction).

Jordanian and Palestinian leaders Thursday welcomed Washington's vow to seek a land-for-peace settlement to Arab-Israeli conflict.

Masri said: "Jordan has always believed that a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute should be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

"We welcome Washington's pledge to solve regional disputes and we see that this could be done through the convening of an international peace conference," Masri told Radio Jordan.

The U.S. agreed to the idea of such a conference in a U.N. resolution approved during the

(Continued on page 4)

## Baker starts Middle East tour, welcomes talks with Palestinians

RIYADH (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Saudi Arabia Friday, starting a diplomatic search for Middle East peace after the Gulf war.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal met Baker on his arrival at Riyadh airport on the first leg of a nine-day tour of the Middle East, the Soviet Union and Turkey.

Baker arrived eight days after the end of the six-week Gulf war. U.S. President George Bush said this week that the end of the war had opened a path to Arab-Israeli peace and pledged to pursue a settlement without imposing one.

Baker will meet leaders of Saudi Arabia — a key Gulf war ally — and will also hold weekend talks with eight Arab states on a peacekeeping force in the Gulf. On Sunday, he leaves for Egypt and then visits Israel, Syria, the Soviet Union and Turkey.

Baker said during his flight from the United States that he would be willing to meet Palestinians if they asked.

"If Palestinians want to meet, I would of course be pleased to meet with them," Baker, who is to visit Israel for the first time on Monday, told reporters travelling with him.

But he said Washington did not consider this the right time for an international Middle East peace conference, despite renewed pressure from some allies to pursue that approach.

Commenting on prospects for arms limitation agreements in the Middle East, he said that while there appeared to be broad consensus on banning weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical and nuclear weapons, it would be difficult to agree on prohibiting conventional arms in the region.

Baker endorsed an Arab agreement for a regional peacekeeping force reached in Damascus on Friday, saying: "We are pleased with what was decided there." The force would rely heavily on Syrian and Egyptian troops.

Baker said he would meet the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday.

He will travel later that day to Kuwait for talks with the Kuwaiti

crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

U.S. officials said they did not expect the exclusive until March 16, the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Despite Baker's willingness to meet Palestinians while in the Middle East, a senior U.S. official said the secretary of state had not sought a meeting himself because Palestinians "are in a state of turmoil in the aftermath of their support for (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein... and we don't want in any way to exacerbate that and we don't want to be seen as somehow announcing certain Palestinians."

The issue of who represents the Palestinians in talks with Israel has for a long time scuttled peace efforts. Palestinians and Arabs say the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the Palestinian people's representative, but Israel refuses to deal with the PLO, calling it a terrorist group.

Political analysts say broad Palestinian support for Iraq has badly hurt their standing in post-war peace moves.

President George Bush, addressing Congress on Wednesday night, reaffirmed longstanding U.S. policy that Israel must trade territory for peace, a view rejected by Israel's hardline government.

Despite the fact that U.S. officials see Jordan as important to regional stability, Baker is not visiting Amman on this trip because "of the disappointment that we felt and feel about the manner in which Jordan expressed its support for Iraq in the recent crisis," a senior U.S. official said.

After their country withstood Iraqi Scud missile attacks, Israeli officials were expected to tell Baker that the Gulf war proved more than ever that the Jewish state needs the occupied territories.

But a senior official close to Baker said: "It does not appear to me that the occupied territories played any part in mitigating the Scud attacks."

Baker will pursue a two-track approach to peace, involving Israel and the Arab states on the

(Continued on page 4)

## Bush outlines Mideast peace drive

From Rania Atalla in Washington

AS U.S. Secretary of State James Baker embarked on his first Middle East trip following the Gulf war, only hours after President George Bush reiterated that a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East could only be based on the principle of land for peace, guaranteeing, simultaneously, Israeli security and Palestinian political rights.

"A comprehensive peace must be grounded in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of territory for peace," Bush said in an address to a joint session of Congress Wednesday evening (Thursday morning Jordan time). "This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and, at the same time, for legitimate Palestinian political rights."

While the U.S. president called on all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to show readiness for compromise, in a statement apparently aimed at Israel in particular, Bush said "geography cannot guarantee security, and security does not come from military power alone."

In what can be characterised as the administration's two-track approach to the settlement of the major conflict in the Middle East, Bush referred to the need to "close the gap" between Israel and the Arab states and between Israelis and Palestinians.

Although they do not claim there is any "plan" to settle the issue, Department of State officials have indicated the U.S. desire to move "simultaneously" on these two tracks, in order to achieve agreement between Arab states and Israel on the one hand, and, at the same time if possible, get talks underway between Israel and the Palestinians on the other. These two tracks are meant to complement one another, officials said.

The Washington Post quoted

(Continued on page 4)



His Majesty King Hussein holding discussions with European Community ministers (Petra photo)

## Appreciative of Jordan stand, EC urges total solution to region problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) fully understands and appreciates Jordan's position with regard to the Middle East question and the Palestine problem, and will pursue means to support His Majesty King Hussein's peace efforts, a statement by the three European Community foreign ministers who ended a brief visit to Jordan Friday, said.

A peaceful solution to the region's problems has to be comprehensive, covering all political and economic issues and dealing with the Palestine problem in all its aspects, Jacques Poos of Luxembourg said before leaving Amman for Tripoli, Libya Friday morning.

Any solution for the Middle East questions should be based on international legitimacy and on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions related to the Palestine problem, Poos whose country heads the EC council of ministers said in his statement carried by the Jordan

News Agency, Petra. Poos and foreign ministers Gianni de Michelis of Italy and Hans van den Broek of the Netherlands held talks with King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian government officials.

Our visit aimed at identifying Jordan's views with regard to the developments in the region and current international efforts to solve the Palestine problem, Poos said in a statement before departure.

King Hussein has comprehensively presented the Jordanian stand during the talks, Poos said. The European Community believes that efforts for peace in the region should involve Jordan which is one of the main parties to the conflict, the minister said.

The EC delegation has not yet reached any conclusions from their tour in the region, he said. The ministers have so far visited Syria and Israel as well as Jordan. The ministers plan to hold further consultations with a number of

countries in the Maghreb Union before submitting a report to the EC council of ministers in Brussels, Poos said.

According to Petra, King Hussein stressed to the EC "troika" delegation the role which the Palestinians must shoulder in any peaceful settlement to the Palestine problem. The King expressed Jordan's readiness to play a positive role to bring about security and peace to the region, Petra added.

The EC troika, Petra said, affirmed the EC's belief that international legitimacy should be applied in all cases on equal footing including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem and also in bringing about political and economic security and stability to the region.

The troika arrived in Amman at the end of a visit to occupied Palestine where they met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and foreign minister David Levy

(Continued on page 5)

## Jordan to resume oil imports from Iraq as soon as possible

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will resume oil imports from Iraq, "very soon" to replenish shortages resulting from the U.S.-led bombardment of Jordanian tanker trucks carrying oil on the Amman-Baghdad highway, official sources confirmed Thursday.

The sources said the Jordanian trucks will resume the transport operation as soon as it is confirmed that the Iraqi oil loading terminal is ready to continue shipments and the Baghdad-Amman highway is safe. They pointed out that the option of imports from Syria and Yemen would remain open.

Jordanian transport industry sources said that four tanker trucks were sent to Baghdad Wednesday on a trial run before the transport operation is

given the green light. The manager of a large Jordanian transport company said that his trucks have finished unloading 100,000 tonnes of Yemeni crude oil from a ship which docked at Aqaba two weeks ago. The shipment was unloaded at the Jordan refinery terminals at Zarka.

According to the company, Jordan has not imported any oil for the past 16 days while it was consuming 7,000 tonnes of oil a day compared to a pre-crisis rate of 10,000 tonnes. The manager said that the decline in consumption was the result of the government-introduced energy conservation programme.

He said that in the past 16 days, Jordan consumed about 120,000 tonnes of oil, which is more than the entire tanker shipment from Yemen.

Informed sources told the

Jordan Times that the U.S. approached four Jordanian transport companies to send trucks to help in the transport of oil to Kuwait, or at least to send trucks with Turkish drivers if Jordanian drivers were not able to go.

But transport industry sources denied the reports.

"I represent the biggest transport company in Jordan and I have not heard of this matter," the company manager said. "Even if it is true, we are not ready to send our trucks to Saudi Arabia under the present conditions."

He said the Saudi authorities have maintained a ban on Jordanian trucks as well as Jordanian drivers, refusing them entry into the Kingdom.

"Our priority is to serve Jordan and not Saudi Arabia," he said. "And since Jordan

(Continued on page 4)

## Israeli extremists claim explosion at PLO Algiers office

ALGIERS (AP) — A letter bomb exploding in the Algiers office of Fateh, the mainstream PLO faction, killed two officials and wounded two others, PLO sources said Friday.

An anonymous telephone caller to the Associated Press bureau in Nicosia, Cyprus, claimed responsibility in the name of the Kach Party, an extreme-right wing Jewish group.

The caller, speaking English with a thick Israeli accent, said the bomb was addressed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The attack came in revenge for the assassination of Kach leader Rabbi Meir Kahane last year in New York.

PLO sources said the explosion at 3 p.m. (1100 GMT) Thursday killed Ahmad Abdul Hafiz and Yasser Jaradat, both in their late 20s, according to the PLO sources in Algiers and Tunis.

They said the wounded were in critical condition, but would not provide their identities.

The Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) said Friday the explosion that killed two of Arafat's bodyguards in Algiers was caused by a gas leak.

An Arab diplomatic source close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation said the victims were members of the elite "Group 17," charged with protecting Yasser Arafat and other

PLO officials.

However, the PLO sources denied this was the case, and said that Arafat does not frequent the building when he is in Algiers.

Arafat was reportedly in Tunis at the time of the blast in the central Algiers building which houses offices for a handful of liberation movements, including several Palestinian factions.

One PLO source in Algiers said the blast in the fourth-floor Fateh offices was caused by "highly explosive substances concealed in a brown envelope."

He said it was not clear to whom the letter was addressed because the witnesses were lying unconscious in an Algiers hospital.

## U.S. may base combat jets in Gulf

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Virginia (AP) — The United States may leave combat aircraft permanently based in Saudi Arabia or other Gulf nations, the air force's top civilian official said Friday. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August, Saudi Arabia, with Iraqi troops poised at its border, welcomed the deployment to the region of hundreds of thousands of allied troops and more than 1,000 planes. But permanent peacetime basing would be unprecedented in a region that has traditionally been highly suspicious of outside interference. U.S. President George Bush announced the large-scale recall of U.S. troops Wednesday night. But he indicated some forces, most likely naval and air, would remain as a security measure. Donald Rice, the air force secretary, said no decisions had been made, but that he believed a limited U.S. air presence "might make sense," as part of a new security arrangement for the Gulf. "Depending on the arrangements that the secretary of state works out with the other nations of the region, it's possible that part of that arrangement could be some land-based air presence in some of those countries in the long term," Rice said.

## Iraqi opposition says it rejected Baghdad 'offer' to share power

Combined agency dispatches

AN IRAQI opposition leader said Friday President Saddam Hussein offered two days ago to share political power with Kurdish and Shi'ite opponents.

But the plan was rejected, said Sheikh Mohsin Al Hussein, an executive member of the supreme council for the Islamic revolution in Iraq.

This was the first word of any concession to rebels by President Hussein, who has made no public comment on the reported revolt in Iraq's Kurdish north and Shi'ite south.

Iraq said on Friday an official of the ruling Baath Party had met the mayor of Basra, previously reported killed by rebels claiming control of the southern port.

Baghdad Radio said Abdul

Ghani Abdul Ghafour, the party official in charge of Iraq's southern region, discussed with the mayor ways of providing aid to people in Basra.

The radio said the meeting took place on Wednesday but did not say whether it was held in the port.

Refugees fleeing southern Iraq to Kuwait reported that rebels had killed the mayor of Basra and other Baath Party officials in the first day of their uprising last week.

Baghdad Radio did not name the Basra mayor.

It said Abdul Ghafour praised the "steadfastness of the people of Basra and their struggle to defend Iraq... under the banner of Saddam Hussein."

(Continued on page 5)

## Baghdad releases 1,200 Kuwaitis; Iraqi POWs head home on Monday

SAFWAN, occupied Iraq (R) — Some 1,200 Kuwaitis seized in their homeland two weeks ago and taken to Iraq came home on Friday after being unceremoniously dumped on the border.

Twenty school buses were eventually rounded up to transport the hungry and thirsty men, abandoned on the frontier by the Iraqis just before midnight.

But they came too late for 200 who, cursing their government for not being on hand to welcome them, started to walk to Kuwait City, 130 kilometres south as the sun rose over the desert.

"If this is how the children of Kuwait are treated we will make our own way to our homes, from

which we were forcibly taken, even if we have to walk," shouted one man.

The others, some with rags for shoes and some begging water from photographers, cheered.

Also Friday Iraq said that it was holding a further two American military men but would hand them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross later in the day.

The Iraqi POWs will begin returning home in groups of several hundred a day starting from next Monday, the U.S. military said.

It said several hundred Iraqi prisoners would initially be repatriated each day. But the flow was expected to increase.

## 2 Palestinians wounded in Jerusalem explosion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian blew his hand off when an explosive device he was preparing went off in Arab East Jerusalem on Friday, Israel police said.

A second Palestinian was slightly wounded in the blast in the Sur Bahir neighbourhood of the city, they said.

Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the 1.75 million Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have waged a revolt against Israeli rule for 39 months.

The explosion occurred as Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark met leading Palestinian nationalists at the home of Faisal Al Hussein in another East Jerusalem neighbourhood.

Clashes between Arabs and Jews in East Jerusalem intensified this week following the stabbing death of a Jewish theological

student by Palestinians in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City on Feb. 28.

Police arrested 22 Arab students during clashes in East Jerusalem Thursday.

On Wednesday night, police clamped a curfew on the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Issawiyeh after dozens of residents stoned Jewish motorists and smashed the windcreens of two cars.

Clashes in East Jerusalem had subsided during the Gulf war when most Palestinians were under curfew.

Before the war, there was a wave of stabbings in revenge for the Israeli police killing of 18 Palestinians at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque in October.

Israelis have killed at least 774 Palestinians in the uprising.

## 'Martial law might be extended in Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait's prime minister has said martial law might be extended beyond three months and indicated parliamentary elections would depend on the return of political stability.

But Crown Prince Saad Al Sabah stressed Kuwait was on the path towards greater democracy. He denied some reports that members of his ruling Al Sabah family had organised "death squads" to eliminate political opponents.

The prince told a news conference that he has ordered a thorough investigation into the shooting of Hamad Al Ju'an, a former parliamentarian and outspoken but moderate advocate of democracy.

Hamad was shot by an unknown assailant shortly after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and is recovering from his wounds. The circumstances sur-

rounding the shooting are still unclear.

The prince also denied reports that large numbers of Palestinians had been detained and some of them beaten and tortured for alleged collaboration with Iraqi forces during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

He said only a "very small number" were being held and would be processed through the legal system. "I would like to assure everyone that the rule of law will prevail and that it will be applied to all without discrimination," the prince said.

Hospital and resistance officials Wednesday said Kuwaiti army and resistance personnel are beating scores of alleged Palestinian collaborators, burning them with cigarettes and hitting them with typewriters and chairs.

(Continued on page 4)



# Iraq will hand ICRC 40 missing journalists

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday 40 Western journalists who were missing in southern Iraq had been brought to Baghdad and would be handed over to the Red Cross.

The news came as the last of almost 60 foreign journalists who were given expulsion orders two days ago left in a convoy of trucks for the Jordanian border.

A statement carried by Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the 40 missing journalists, including two women, had been found during an "illegal" visit to the southern city of Basra.

It said they would be handed over to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) later Friday.

The journalists left Kuwait last Sunday to cover a reported uprising in Basra by forces opposed to President Saddam Hussein.

Earlier Friday, two American CBS television newsmen, Chris Everson and Tim Dickey, were

returned to U.S. military control in occupied southern Iraq, the Pentagon said in Washington.

Pentagon officials put the total number of foreign journalists still in Iraq at 38, rather than Baghdad's estimate of 40.

INA listed the journalists as 11 Americans, 17 French, two Britons, three Italians, two Norwegians, one Spaniard, two Brazilians, one Irish citizen and one Uruguayan.

The agency said: "The Iraqi authorities have found the foreign journalists whom the media reported as having gone missing during their illegal presence in Basra."

"They were taken to Baghdad yesterday, and the authorities will hand them over to Red Cross representatives in Baghdad today."

Iraq also announced Friday that another two U.S. servicemen would be handed to the Red Cross later in the day. The Iraqi

authorities had said previously that all American prisoners of war had been released.

Only a few local journalists working for foreign media organisations and the foreign crews of two London-based television news organisations, Visnews and WTN, are still working out of Baghdad.

On Thursday, after it had ordered the journalists to leave, Iraq accused the Western media of spreading lies and belittling Iraqi and Arab achievements.

Dozens of cars carried the reporters, photographers, cameramen and technicians. Several trucks carrying satellite dishes and other heavy equipment trailed behind.

The expulsion of foreign media representatives left a handful of Arab and Third World nationals in the Iraqi capital, reporting only for newspapers or periodicals of countries viewed friendly by the government.

## Pakistan seeks Gulf jobs

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Pakistani mission left for the Gulf Friday seeking construction contracts and some 150,000 jobs for Pakistanis in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Mission leader, Labour and Manpower Minister Mohammad Ejaz-ul-Haq, told reporters before leaving for Saudi Arabia that Pakistan would also offer services for clearing landmines left in Kuwait by the invading Iraqi troops.

He said he was carrying a special message from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah containing Pakistan's offer of services for the reconstruction of Kuwait, ravaged in the Gulf conflict.

Ejaz, son of late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, is due to meet the Emir in the Saudi resort town of Taif.

He said Kuwait was facing an acute shortage of food, and talks would be held concerning food exports. Pakistan was considered sending a rice gift to Kuwait, he added.

The possibility of exporting cement, steel and other building materials will also be explored, he said.

A U.S. construction company securing a big contract in Kuwait has asked Pakistan if it can supply 100,000 workers, Ejaz said.

He said he expected some 150,000 Pakistani workers to be exported to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

But some individuals who fled Kuwait after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion think the emirate could accommodate between 250,000 and 300,000 Pakistani workers.

The Pakistani delegation also intends to visit Kuwait to meet Crown prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al-Sabah and other officials in charge of restoring order after the Gulf war.

The mission is likely to take up compensation demands for losses estimated between \$1 billion and \$3 billion incurred by about 90,000 Pakistanis who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Pakistan was one of the non-Gulf countries worst hit by the conflict, with costs estimated at \$1.2 billion in a full year caused by more expensive oil imports, higher freight and insurance charges and the loss of remittances.

But government officials say the war would raise Pakistan's budget deficit by an extra \$2.4 billion.

"If Pakistan explores the market and sends the right people, 250,000 to 300,000 Pakistanis can go there," said Shafaatullah Mirza, chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis' Welfare Association (OPWA).

The OPWA estimates the losses to Pakistanis in Kuwait at more than \$3 billion in lost business, bank deposits, cash, cars and other property, salaries and other dues.

## Iraqi opposition: Arab states offer military aid

DAMASCUS (R) — An Iraqi opposition leader says Arab states have pledged military aid to help topple the Iraqi leadership.

Jalal Talebani told a joint news conference with other emigre leaders that unidentified Arab governments and other countries had responded positively to requests for weapons and food from rebels who have challenged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's rule in two dozen Iraqi cities and towns.

Exiled opposition leaders said on Thursday their groups will meet in Beirut on Sunday to discuss unity moves.

They proclaimed successes on several fronts in the wake of the Gulf war. There was no independent confirmation of their claims.

The rebels insist they control Iraq's second city of Basra, but U.S. military sources in Saudi Arabia say Iraq's elite Republican Guard is in control of the city.

A Syrian-based Iraqi opposition leader, Fadel Al Ansari, charged Iraq was planning to use weapons of mass destruction against the rebellion.

Talebani, leader of the Kurdistan front, told reporters in Damascus that the uprising in

Iraq was independent and not influenced by any other country.

"We are holding contacts with Arab countries and some big states to explain the uprising, get moral and political support and other assistance," Talebani said.

He did not name these states but acknowledged that aid included "weapons, food etc."

Asked what was the response of these countries, he said: "It was a positive response."

In Paris, Adnan Mufti, spokesman for the Kurdish Socialist Party said rebels held several towns in northern Iraq and opponents and supporters of Saddam were fighting in Baghdad's Al Thawra district.

He claimed most small towns in northern Iraq were in the hands of Kurdish rebels who also controlled the suburbs of the bigger cities of Irbil and Sulaymaniya.

In London, Iraqi opposition groups said they asked Britain to allow them to recruit from among Iraqi prisoners of war and to take over captured Iraqi weapons.

Spokesmen for the Joint Action Committee (JAC) representing a coalition of 17 opposition groups expressed disappointment that the Gulf war allies were doing nothing to support an uprising against Saddam.

## Israeli settler admits killing Arab woman

JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli settler suspected of shooting dead an Arab to avenge the killing of two Jews told a court on Friday he would kill 100 more Arabs if it helped stop attacks on Jews, Israel Radio said.

Nachshon Walz, 34, was ordered to be held in connection with the shooting of Aziza Salem Jaber, 25, on August 6, 1990, hours after two Israeli youths were found stabbed to death in Jerusalem.

Jaber was shot in her car in Kiryat Arba, a militant Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank near the city of Hebron.

Police detained Walz and Kurziel Meir, 44, two immigrants from the United States living in Kiryat Arba, on Thursday.

The magistrates court in Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv remanded Walz in custody for 15 days and Meir for one week. No pleas were entered.

Police told the court Walz admitted to the killing and reconstructed the crime, the Israeli News Agency Itim said, Meir denied involvement in the killing.

Police said Walz told them he

shot Jaber to avenge the killing of the two youths — Ronen Karmani, 18 and Lior Tubul, 17. The two were found with multiple wounds and their hands bound behind their backs.

He expressed no remorse and said he would kill 100 more Arabs if it would help prevent further killings of Jews, police said.

Police told the court they found weapons in Meir's home, including carbines of the type used to kill Jaber, crates of ammunition and a machine to produce bullets.

Meir's defence attorney said he was a former weapons expert who served in an elite American combat unit in Vietnam and it was not unusual for him to keep weapons at home, Israel Radio reported.

Palestinian residents of Hebron have accused settlers from neighbouring Kiryat Arba of frequent harassment.

Anti-Arab Rabbi Moshe Levinger, one of the most prominent residents of Kiryat Arba, has already been convicted of killing an Arab bystander when he went on a shooting spree in the centre of Hebron.

## Habibi to visit Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi will arrive here Saturday for a three-day visit to discuss bilateral issues and post-Gulf war developments, it was announced here Friday.

A foreign ministry announcement said Habibi will be making a return visit following the trip to Tehran by Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut a year ago.

Habibi will also meet with President Turgut Ozal.

Turkey supported the United States throughout the Gulf crisis and allowed U.S. aircraft to use a southern air base to launch bombing missions in Iraq.

Ozal and Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani consulted by telephone during the crisis.

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Hashemi Rafsanjani



Saddam Hussein

## Rafsanjani calls on Saddam to step down

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his ruling party in Iraq to step down, saying their attempt to crush rebellion and hold on to power "will be their last mistake."

Addressing worshippers gathered at Tehran University for Friday prayers, Rafsanjani said Iran would cooperate with Iraq only if Iraq's Arab Baath Socialist Party surrenders "to the will of the people."

His sermon was carried by Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

It was the first time that an Iranian leader has openly backed the revolt in Iraq, inspired by the allied rout in the Gulf war.

But Iranian officials have denied any involvement in the unrest.

"Saddam is making a mistake while suppressing the people," Rafsanjani said. "This is the

worst mistake."

He said Saddam and his party, "should surrender to the will of the people... if the Baathists will not listen to the voice of the people, it will be their last mistake."

"If the Baathists surrender to the will of the people, we in Iran are ready for cooperation."

The sermon Friday came two days after Rafsanjani received a written message from Saddam, carried to Tehran by Saadoun Hammadi, a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council.

Rafsanjani did not personally meet with Hammadi, and the letter was delivered to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Neither the contents of the message, nor Rafsanjani's response to it have been disclosed.

Iran and Iraq fought an eight year war which ended in 1988 with a United Nations-sponsored, cease-fire.

## Britain frees 33 Arabs held on security grounds

LONDON (R) — Britain said on Friday it was releasing more than 30 Arab detainees, most of them Iraqis, rounded up at the start of the Gulf war because of threats to national security.

Home Secretary Kenneth Baker decided that no further action would be taken to deport the 31 Iraqis and two others because of "a diminished risk" to national security, the Home Office (Interior Ministry) said.

Deportation orders that had already been made would now be revoked, the Home Office said in a statement.

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday said it had freed 32 Iraqi prisoners of war who were detained at a military camp on Salisbury plain in western Eng-

land.

Britain reacted swiftly to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat of terrorist attacks on western targets and made many arrests when war broke out seven weeks ago.

The Home Office statement meant that all Arabs detained because of the war would now be released.

Some 33 Middle Eastern national had left Britain after the start of the war. Some chose to leave voluntarily or had been out of the country and had not returned.

The detentions caused outrage among civil rights groups which complained that the detainees could not appeal to the courts against deportation orders.

## Libya denies producing chemical weapons

NICOSIA (R) — Libya denied on Friday U.S. allegations that its Rabta pharmaceuticals plant, damaged by fire last year, was capable of producing chemical weapons.

"An official source at the foreign ministry denied what was claimed by the American State Department spokesman that Libya was still capable of producing chemical weapons at Rabta," the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

JANA, received in Cyprus, quoted the official as restating Libyan assertions that the factory would produce medicines.

He said Libya was holding talks with European countries on repairing and operating the plant, damaged by fire a year ago.

The Libyan official said negotiations covered partnership in the plant and participation in its administration and operation by experts from unnamed West European countries.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday that the Rabta plant was capable of producing chemical weapons and urged other countries not to sell Libya anything that could help in their manufacture.

"Even as the world's atten-

tion has focused on Iraq, we have continued to be highly concerned about the threat posed by the Libyan chemical weapons programme," he said.

Libya reported the Rabta fire a few days after Washington claimed that chemical weapons production was about to begin there.

Within days, U.S. intelligence said the fire was a hoax designed to forestall a bombing attack to destroy the plant.

The Washington Times newspaper, quoting U.S. intelligence sources, said this week a new facility had been built near the plant and that production of chemical weapons was under way.

Boucher declined to comment on the specifics of the report but said: "The alleged fire in Rabta last March was in all likelihood a hoax and we believe that Rabta is capable of producing chemicals."

He said it was vital that no nation supply Libya with equipment, materials or expertise that could be used to manufacture chemical weapons.

The United States had been in contact with several countries and urged continued international vigilance about Libya's attempts to acquire chemical weapons. Boucher said.

## Allied divers remove mines from Kuwaiti ports

SHUAIBA PORT, Kuwait (R) — Allied divers working by touch in filthy oil-polluted waters checked Kuwait's main deep-sea harbour on Friday for Iraqi mines.

"We expect to have the port clear by tomorrow at the latest," said U.S. Navy Captain John

Shick.

He heads a team of 66 American, British and Australian divers who spend at least an hour a day, 50 feet (15 metres) deep in dark, oil-polluted and silted waters groping for mines.

Over the past ten days, "we found no underwater mines but

that does not mean there aren't any left," Shick said.

A dozen 145-kilogramme Iraqi-made contact mines were washed ashore near here. One sat on a jetty looking like a big brown crab with its bloated belly up.

As part of the ceasefire terms agreed last Sunday, Iraqi military commanders disclosed they had laid 1,117 mines in the northern Gulf.

Allied navies had recovered about 100 mines so far, British Royal Navy Lieutenant Steve Marshall said.

"The Iraqis gave us boundaries and there is no evidence to suggest that what they told us is not accurate," Marshall said.

But allied forces are taking no chances. "We work under the assumption there are mines in this port," Shick said.

Because of the poor visibility, small remote-controlled submarines ordinarily used in underwater mine disposal are ineffective, Marshall said. "Everything is done by tactile search," he said.

"You bump into things before you see them," said Petty Officer Dickie Peake.

Heavy smoke from burning oilfields blots out the sun. "There is no light and the mud doesn't help," he said.

"It's cold, dirty and there's nothing down there to look at, it's not very nice," said leading diver David Mitchell after an hour underwater. "It's about the worst kind of dive you can think of."

Divers don disposable white suits over their black wetsuits before jumping into the murky waters. "There's so much oil that it messes up our equipment," Marshall said.

## Tunisian Islamic group suspends activity

TUNIS (R) — Three leaders of Tunisia's Islamic fundamentalist movement Nahdha, the country's main opposition group, said on Friday they were suspending operations.

The announcement brought Nahdha, which enjoyed wide support before it split over the Gulf crisis, close to collapse.

Police arrested six of the ten members of Nahdha's executive bureau and dozens of activists accused of planning terrorist attacks. Three of the four still at large said they were ceasing activity in the movement.

"We proclaim the freezing of our membership and our activity within the Nahdha," said Abdel-fettah Mourou, the movement's number two in a joint statement signed by the three.

The others are Fadhel Beldi, considered a hardliner, and Benaisa Demni, editor of the fundamentalist newspaper Al-Fajr.

The three said they withdrew because "it appears certain young members of the movement were implicated in the attack" against the offices of the ruling RCD (Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique) party.

Three people were wounded in that attack in Tunis on February

17. The Gulf conflict split the movement. Party Chief Rached Ghannouchi, who lives in exile, favours Iraq. Others like Mourou and Hamadi Jabali had links with Saudi Arabia, which allegedly funded the party.

Nahdha, considered the second most important political group after the RCD, is not officially recognised but its activities have been tolerated and Al-Fajr allowed on sale.

To accentuate the rift and stop Nahdha capitalising on pro-Iraqi sentiment, the government exercised what one analyst called "selective repression."

Until last week authorities foiled every attempt by pro-Iraqi fundamentalist groups to stage protests while allowing demonstrations by trade unions and other opposition parties.

Since last month's attack on the RCD offices, analysts say, the movement has been discredited in the eyes of the public and opposition parties.

"Clearly the Tunisian government has succeeded in averting the fundamentalist peril during the Gulf crisis," one western diplomat said.

# Despite hardships, Iraqis determined to prevail

From P.V. Vivekanand in Baghdad

BAGHDAD is alive and kicking, if only because the instinct for survival of the Iraqi people seems to have prevailed. Everywhere in this historic capital are signs of a nation trying to put its life back together after one of the most devastating wars in its history.

The shortage of water and fuel and the absence of power has hit everyone to the extent that even well-to-do Iraqis think twice before opening their garage door.

"We have to have water, power and fuel," in that order, said Mohammad Bahoud, a civil engineer. "Our major problem is to get these, but until we do we have to make with what we have; and we will," he added with conviction.

At the Al Safiriya market in the heart of the Iraqi capital, the dingdong of stove repairers and the sudden rush for primitive stoves are telling signs of how the Iraqis are coping with the shortage in cooking gas. "We were not born with gas stoves," Bahoud, father of six, philosophised. "If we have to go back to kerosene, we will."

In the Shouja market, where one has only to raise his head to see the bawling Baghdad took for 40 years since Jan. 17. People are selling anything from woollen socks to imitation perfume. Buyers are many.

Most shops are open in downtown Baghdad, but only until mid-afternoon when they are deprived of sunlight. Even the famous Persian carpet shops be-

hind the ancient Abbasiya Mosque are keeping their doors open in the hope of catching the odd customer.

"Yes, we are indeed preoccupied with meeting the basic essential needs of life," said Mustafa Aghabi, an aging school teacher as he waited for a government bus to come. "Don't you know that we Iraqis have survived as a nation for over 5,000 years," he added as he scanned the street for the elusive bus, the most sought-after means of transport in the wake of fuel rationing in a country which holds the second largest reserves of oil in the Middle East or 11 per cent of the proven reserves of the world.

Despite repeated official warnings, a good segment of the four million or so population of Baghdad has been using water from the Tigris River leading to rising number of cases of diarrhoea. It could indeed be fatal for even grown-ups in Iraq, which is facing an acute shortage of medicine for its 18 million people as a result of the international sanctions and freezing of foreign assets for its invasion of Kuwait eight months ago.

Somehow food is plenty although not abundant. Street vendors are doing brisk business, for many families appear to have resorted to street food rather than coping with water and power shortages at home. But not many can afford it.

"This has been our way of life for centuries, although many have had to revive it," said Abbas Muslawi, as he fanned the flames

of his charcoal barbecue with a newspaper. "The Americans are mistaken if they thought they could break the will of the Iraqi people," he borrowed a phrase often used by his Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Granted the will is there, but what about the means?

"We will do that worrying, and if we don't have it (the will) then we will create it," replied Muslawi in an aggressive tone. "All that we ask of the world, is to leave us alone, and we will manage."

This uncanny confidence is the basic fibre that holds the Iraqis together — a sentiment little understood by the outside world, especially when one quickly makes a mental run through the massive devastation and havoc that the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition

wreaked on the country.

"We will never forget what they did to us." A young Iraqi in civilian clothes joined Muslawi as he waited his turn for the kebab. "They have totally destroyed our country, and made sure that our economy will not be revived for the next 20 years. We will have our day sooner or later... Remember revenge is sweetest when served cold."

In the meantime, Iraqis, at least in Baghdad, do not have time for any short or lengthy debate over politics. That can come later. But the major preoccupation of everyone is to address and find practical solutions for their problems of daily life until more lasting answers can be found. And life continues, although not exactly very normal.

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ High Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Abla Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77101/2  
Army, Marika ..... 891611/15  
Queen Abla Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)883322  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ..... (09)991071  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

MARKET PRICES  
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Banana ..... 400 / 450  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 450 / 400

Beans ..... 700 / 600  
Cabbage ..... 100 / 60  
Carrot ..... 200 / 150  
Cauliflower ..... 220 / 160  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 200 / 150  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 400 / 350  
Dates ..... 500 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 160 / 120  
Garlic ..... 1300 / 1000  
Lemon ..... 220 / 180  
Marrow (large) ..... 200 / 150  
Marrow (small) ..... 350 / 280  
Onion (dry) ..... 280 / 220  
Onion (green) ..... 180 / 140  
Orange ..... 380 / 300  
Pepper (red) ..... 440 / 380  
Pepper (green) ..... 240 / 160  
Potato ..... 220 / 180  
Radish ..... 120 / 80  
Sage ..... 400 / 300  
Spinach ..... 120 / 80  
Tomatoes ..... 300 / 250

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

06:33 ..... Fajr  
05:30 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:46 ..... Dhuhr  
15:47 ..... 'Asr  
17:42 ..... Maghrib  
18:39 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlich, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasants Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 77175





His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday holds talks with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark in the presence of several Cabinet ministers (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Canada review situation in Middle East, cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canada's role in helping stabilise the Middle East region, and Jordanian-Canadian economic cooperation dominated talks held here Thursday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark.

The two sides conducted a general review of the situation in the region in the aftermath of the Gulf war, matters related to security and cooperation among the countries of the region and means of bolstering Canada's ties with Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the meeting, which was attended by several Cabinet ministers, also covered other issues in the Middle East and stressed the need to enhance the concept of regional security politically, economically and militarily.

Clark and his Jordanian coun-

terpart, Taher Al Masri held a meeting earlier during which the Palestine problem and the issue of an international Middle East conference were discussed.

"Masri presented Jordan's views with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict reaffirming the need for the world community to implement international legality in various world issues, especially the Palestine problem, so that the region can regain stability and peace," said the agency.

Petra said that the two sides had expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations. Mr. Masri voiced Jordan's appreciation of Canada's continued economic assistance to the Kingdom.

During his two-day visit here, Mr. Clark called at the U.N. office in Amman and met with the heads of U.N. organisations operating in the Kingdom. Petra

said that the Canadian minister was briefed on the facilities and services offered by these organisations to the evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait over the past seven months.

The agency quoted Mr. Clark as pledging further Canadian assistance to these organisations to help them pursue their humanitarian role in the region, especially in countries directly affected by the Gulf crisis.

The heads of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) were present at the meeting along with the U.N. Resident Representative Dr. Ali Aziz.

## Clark: Palestinian, other regional problems should be addressed

By Mariam M. Shahn  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Before leaving Jordan Thursday to continue his Middle East tour, Canada's External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said that the meetings he had held with His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri during his one-day visit had been "very useful."

Jordan's role in the post-war Arab World, Mr. Clark said, may grow to be important. "We think that the role of Jordan and of His Majesty the King has always been a key and indeed that role may become even more important now."

Unlike the United States, Mr. Clark said, Canada's aid to Jordan would not be reappraised. Canada, he said, had already paid its share of aid to Jordan for its care for the refugees which had come to the country after the August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Speaking to reporters, the foreign minister said that while Iraq's "aggression" against Kuwait "was wrong, the causes (behind it) were real... that has to be recognised by all of us who want there to be... a durable peace in the region... We have to get on with addressing some of those real problems in this time of real opportunity in the region."

Clark told the press conference that central issues, which would determine the region's future well-being, now had an opportunity to be addressed. He warned, however, that if the opportunities were not taken "the consequences could be very serious."

The Canadian foreign minister said that the post-war period has presented new opportunities which had not existed previously. "For at least a period of time there is more flexibility on critical issues than there might have been before," he said, adding that the United Nations could play a leading role in the realisation of those opportunities which are presenting themselves.

Referring in particular to the Palestinian issue, Mr. Clark said "there is an opportunity now... that did not exist before to take the demonstrated strength of the United Nations, which did not exist before, and try to apply it to other urgent issues."

Canada, which supports that the Palestinian question be addressed by way of an international conference, feels that the Palestinian issue must be addressed urgently, Mr. Clark said.

He added that Canada respected the legitimacy of the Palestinian leadership. "The representatives of the Palestinians must be the people and organisations of their choice... that seems to be the PLO," he said.

Unlike the United States, its powerful neighbour, Canada enjoys a diplomatic relationship with the PLO. Despite the disagreement by Canada of positions taken by the PLO, the foreign minister said, "we intend to continue our relations with the PLO, both to express disagreement when that occurs and to express agreement where it occurs."

Mr. Clark stressed that the Canadian government felt that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the 24 year occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands could not be paralleled if a "durable solution... by persuasion and confidence building" were to be found.

On the basis of U.N. Resolution 242 "I remain confident that it will be possible for us to find ways to move forward towards a solution that would establish a homeland for the Palestinian people and establish a security of borders and security for the integrity for the state of Israel," he said.

The application or threat of sanctions with regards to Israel would be counterproductive, said Mr. Clark, to the suggestion that Israel may be pressured into applying U.N. Security Council resolutions. "Sanctions should be seen as a last resort," he added.

Mr. Clark said that on a regional level the new opportunities would include "an extension of the commitment to the spirit of democracy which is evident here."

The new stage of opportunities, he added, would also allow for the possibility of an improvement of relations between Israel and her neighbours and addressing the economic inequities of the region.

Canada, said the foreign minister, has for long had a deep admiration for Jordan and the King and the constructive moderate approach they have taken to issues in this region.

For its part in reacting to the post-war era, Mr. Clark said, Canada had published a complete report of its arms exports to everywhere in the world, which he presented to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mr. Clark said he hoped other countries would follow Canada's example. Steps which would limit the use of chemical weapons are being implemented in Canada.

Canada, supports the proposal which would allow "surplus arms to be destroyed and not distributed to other countries in the world." The building down of arms in developed countries would also be encouraged," Mr. Clark said.

On Friday Reuters quoted Mr. Clark as saying that the world was showing a renewed interest in solving the Palestinian problem following the end of the Gulf war.

"The world is now more ready to encourage action on the Security Council resolutions... than might have been the case before," the minister told reporters at the end of a visit to Israel.

He said Canada was committed to the United Nations' Resolution 242 that calls for Israeli withdrawal from territory occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

"We think that (territorial compromise) is an essential component of the peace package," he added.

Clark, in Israel as part of a Middle East tour to discuss the Gulf war aftermath, met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian nationalists.

"I think it is fair for me to observe that the experience of the past several months... has not given Prime Minister Shamir greater confidence about Israel's immediate security prospects," Reuters quoted him as saying.

He called for confidence-building between the Palestinians, who want a homeland of their own, and Israelis. "It was clear that frustration remains very high among Palestinians," he said.

Clark flew to Saudi Arabia later on Friday. He is also due to visit Kuwait and Syria.

## Jordan, S. Korea discuss ways of bolstering ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC), has decided to export 234,000 tonnes of potash during March, in accordance with a timetable worked out by the company to meet the needs of the importers. APC Director of Marketing Khaled Sharaiha announced Friday.

He said that (APC) had exported 40,000 tonnes of potash earlier this month to China and 140,000 more tonnes would be exported, to China in accordance with the timetable.

India, he said, will import 30,000 tonnes this month, and other consignments will go to other countries, including Turkey, Malaysia, Greece and France.

The statement was issued after the talks held Thursday by APC Managing Director Ali Ensour with a visiting South Korean delegation which arrived here to discuss ways to bolster economic and trade ties with Jordan. The six-member delegation discussed the prospect of buying potash from Jordan above the existing import level of 100,000 tonnes a year. APC officials said that South Korea had been buying potash from Jordan since 1983.

The South Koreans earlier discussed their country's imports of Jordanian potash and phosphate at a meeting with Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah. The two sides reviewed Jordanian-South Korean economic and trade ties based on a 1977

trade agreement and the minister stressed the need for South Korea to buy more Jordanian goods, notably phosphate and potash, in order to adjust the balance of trade which, since 1985, has been in favour of South Korea.

South Korea's Ambassador here Tae Jin Park, who attended the meeting, said that his country was currently discussing means of bolstering ties with Jordan and helping the country overcome the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on the national economy.

Abdullah voiced Jordan's appreciation to South Korea for its \$15 million soft loan to the Kingdom and expressed hope that bilateral cooperation would continue and expand.

According to Ministry of Planning officials, Jordan exported goods worth JD 27.7 million to South Korea and imported goods worth JD 60 million between 1985 and 1989. In 1990, they said, Jordan exported JD 7.7 million worth of goods against JD 16 million worth of imports from South Korea.

At the meeting the two sides discussed increasing economic and technical cooperation of a 1988 cultural agreement which provides for cooperation in higher education, information, tourism, youth and sports and health.

The Korean delegation which came here from Saudi Arabia left Amman for Cairo Thursday night at the end of their two-day visit to Jordan.

## Ministry denies postponement of social security payments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi has denied press reports about his ministry's alleged decision allowing the postponement of the settlement of payments due to the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and he urged all companies and organisations to pay their dues as soon as possible.

"Reports published in the local press about delaying for six months the payment of dues to the SSC are totally groundless," said the minister. He added that a proposal was recently submitted to the Ministry of Labour by the Amman Chamber of Industry in this respect but no decision was taken.

According to SSC rules, various companies deduct five per cent of the workers' wages and send them to the SSC along with double the amount as a contribution from the companies themselves for the benefit of the workers who normally receive pensions at the end of their services.

The minister urged all firms and organisations covered by the SSC law to pay their dues as soon as possible so that workers' interests can be safeguarded.

The minister also drew the firms' attention to the clause in the law which states that those delaying payments will be subjected to paying fines ranging from two to 12 per cent annually.

Dughmi Thursday met with the president and members of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce to discuss matters related to disputes and relations between workers and



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

employers.

Adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on the national economy and the subsequent decline in national production and the shrinking of foreign markets were reviewed at the meeting according to Petra.

The agency said that the minister had reiterated his decision to find jobs for the unemployed Jordanians by cooperating with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), and stressed the Ministry of Labour's plans to ban the employment of non-Jordanians in areas that can be filled by local job-seekers.

Dughmi referred to the new labour law which is still to be published, and said that the final version will be ready for Parliament later this year.

## Abu Hassan: Axial loads law should be reviewed

By Ziad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President of the Jordanian Businessmen Association Mamdouh Abu Hassan has said that the enforcement of the axial loads law would increase the country's financial burdens at a time when it is struggling to curb expenditure and to economise on the consumption of energy.

Abu Hassan, who was commenting on the law which was referred to the Parliament for debate and endorsement, said the implementation of the law would aggravate Jordan's economic problems rather than ease them.

The application of the law will cost Jordan some JD 531 million for the year 1991, including JD 522 million as capital costs and JD 9 million in the form of price of diesel oil, said Abu Hassan.

The capital cost will result from doubling the number of trucks and trailers needed. In this regard he noted that the number of trucks and trailers would be raised from 5,825 as in 1990 to 11,650 in 1991. He added that the cost of only one trailer is around JD 90,000, let alone the customs duties and registration fees and the like. This means, according to Abu Hassan, that Jordan needs JD 522 million to cover prices of the new vehicles to be bought to meet the demand.

"If this option is to be done without, a similar number of vehicles is going to be hired, and the cost will be even more," he said.

Abu Hassan noted that such vehicles would consume diesel oil worth JD 9 million, thus raising Jordan's consumption of this kind of fuel.

He pointed out that Jordan's consumption of diesel oil in 1990 stood at 845,000 tonnes, 40 per cent of which was consumed by trucks and land transport vehicles. This means that trucks and trailers consumed 338,000 tonnes of diesel oil, and it is expected that the figure will double to become 676,000 tonnes when the law is enforced.

Abu Hassan expects a shortage in the number of trucks and trailers, once the law is implemented, because a truck or trailer will have to carry half the load it currently carries, thus demanding that an additional number of trucks be made available to cope with the demand.

Abu Hassan called for cancelling the law and for enacting a new law that allows trucks and trailers to carry up to 13 tonnes rather than 9 tonnes, in line with the policy in force at the International Road Federation, which allows trucks to carry up to 12 tonnes.

Abu Hassan also suggested that the government impose a transit fee on all non-Jordanian trucks passing through Jordan in transit to other countries to help the government cover cost of maintenance of roads.

Abu Hassan voiced hope that the parliament would take these notes into consideration when discussing the law.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday inspects a workshop at Save the Children Fund (Petra photo)

UNICEF report says 30% of Jordan's population lives under poverty line, 250,000 children suffer from malnutrition

## Prince Hassan urges more attention to children's health

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday called for a greater measure of attention to be given to children and their health, and thanked the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and local organisations for their efforts in this regard.

Food and medicine and regarded as the most important elements as far as human rights are concerned, said the Crown Prince at a meeting which focused on the adverse effects of the Gulf conflict on the social and health sectors in Jordan in the light of a UNICEF report on the general social and health conditions in Jordan.

"The future is not only connected with the development of machines and factories, but should be directed to the advancement of people and the young generation," said Prince Hassan at the meeting which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma as well

as UNICEF representative Nigel Fisher and Minister of Social Development Youssef Al Azem.

Jordan, the Prince said, has dealt with a major challenge represented in the influx of waves of evacuees and refugees since 1948 from Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait; and the presence of large numbers of displaced people has placed heavy burden on the country's economy and social services.

"Jordan should be assisted by the world community to handle this major task and to safeguard the future of children," the Prince said.

Fisher outlined UNICEF's programmes in general and focused attention on the organisation's report concerning the social and health situation in Jordan, in general and that of children, in particular, in the wake of the Gulf conflict.

According to Fisher, 250,000 Jordanian children under 12 years of age suffer from malnutrition as a result of the adverse conse-

quences of the war which also brought about a decline in living conditions.

Families living below the poverty line are now estimated at 30 per cent of the total population of Jordan, up from 23 per cent at the end of 1990, according to Fisher. He blamed unemployment and insufficient services on the return to Jordan of expatriates and refugees.

Fisher lauded the government's efforts to deal with the situation and demanded that the world community rally to support the Kingdom.

The Minister of Social Development also addressed the meeting. He reviewed measures being taken to improve social and economic conditions of Jordanians in rural and urban regions. Prince Hassan earlier inspected the activities at the Save the Children Fund and the children's nurseries at Nuzha Community Centre where the meeting was held.

## Relief organisation gets relief aid for Jordan, Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT) in Jordan has recently received its first shipment of relief materials for the affected people of Jordan and Iraq. This shipment includes several tonnes of medicines and food, donated by the Italian branch of AMURT. Large shipments are in process now from Europe, the Far East and North America.

These materials will be distributed in conjunction with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and Human Appeal.

Friday, March 8, AMURT and Human Appeal of Amman conducted a distribution of basic food materials (enough for one month per family) in one of the poorest areas of Jordan. Programmes such as these will continue for all needy sections including returnees from the Gulf as well as permanent residents of Jordan.

AMURT is a global service organisation started in India in 1955. Its dual objectives are relief and development. Relief work is essential in times of war, earthquakes and all other natural or man-made disasters. Development programmes are designed to bring about self-sufficiency and reliance, the use and development of local resources and people, as well as the self-esteem and self-confidence essential for a healthy, viable community.



### INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS (IFO: ACI-01/91-278-0265)

### COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), is inviting quotations from qualified firms in connection with:

### THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SYSTEM SOFTWARE

Quotations will be accepted from U.S. or Jordanian eligible firms. The origin of the equipment must be the U.S.A. or Jordan. Procurement resulting from this IFQ will be financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under Grant No. 278-0265.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the invitation for quotations from:

The Amman Chamber of Industry Building  
2nd Circle Jabal Amman  
Tel. 643001, Fax. 962-6-647852  
P.O.Box 1800 Amman-JORDAN

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING QUOTATIONS:

12:00 Noon, April 8, 1991

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Cyprus Airways flies to QAIA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cyprus Airways will resume its flights to and from Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) as of March 17, 1991, according to the carrier's general agent in Jordan Mr. Nasser Qa'war. He said the carrier would operate one flight from Larnaca to Amman per week in the period between March 17-30. Then, he said, the carrier will be operating two flights to Amman.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية  
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View from Amman

By Kamel Abu Jaber

## Lessons from the Gulf crisis

THE blood had not yet dried on the ground when the whole area mushroomed with all kinds of instant experts indulging themselves in all types of instant analyses and opinions. It is not wrong to analyse with an eye to learn something but it is wrong to do so with the aim of inflicting more damage to our psyche. We have enough wounds already without ourselves adding new ones. This exercise of self-flagellation indulged in by some of us verges on masochism. In apportioning guilt or innocence, we should keep a balance between our hopes and abilities, while looking deeply into our own souls to see how guilty we are in encouraging or in keeping silent when we should have done something else.

This latest battle that Iraq fought on behalf of the Arabs should be viewed against the background of our war of long duration with the West: A war that stretches way back to the crusades that commenced in the eleventh century. The horror that it unleashed on us as well as the psychological damage are no more than another layer of frustration to be added to the earlier ones.

Of the many lessons that we should immediately grasp as a result of this latest battle is that we and the West still habit two different thought universes. Iraq thought it to be a limited war whereas the so-called western alliance executed a total one, otherwise how can one explain the Iraqi behaviour of watching for nearly six months without doing anything while "allies" amassed their weapons and troops.

Since the fifteenth century Western civilisation has been aggressively advancing in a variety of fields especially technologically. And while we remain too concerned with trying to preserve the past, its focus has been on the future. Complicating our relationship with the West has been its infiltration by Zionism. And now totally Zionised having lost its soul to Zionism as well as

to its worship of materialism, we cannot expect but disdain and brutality from it. Our greatest problem remains our fear of the change we most need. It is thus that we remain anchored to a way of life that remains out of step with the times: a way of life that we cannot blame on the West or on anyone else. And, desirable as this way of life may be it has to change if for nothing else but to defend ourselves against the encroaching western culture of violence that we have to live with.

Henry Kissinger must now be content with himself. Like other denizens of Zionism he must be congratulating himself on the results of the Gulf crisis. Now his wish that both Iraq and Iran "lose" has been granted. The Gulf crisis has its roots in the history, geography and the psyche of the area: an area that has known little else besides strife and frustration. The powers of the western world, in league with Zionism have conspired to divert the energies of the Arab World in directions calculated to prohibit any forward movement. Once again, as this crisis has amply displayed, they have succeeded. They have proven what really needs no proof: that without a central soul numbers mean little, or nothing. Directionless and with little leadership and organisation the whole Arab structure, like the house of cards that it was, simply collapsed. And, once again we Arabs find ourselves in that state of limbo, somewhere between reason and unreason.

Most people, like today's western mass media, like simple answers to complicated questions: Instant expertise giving impressions that are neither here nor there. We may never fully know what happened. We may never know what induced the herd mentality that stampeded all reason before its onslaught and caused the havoc that it did. One thing we should know, however,

is that what took place was no accident but a well thought-out and meticulously executed affair in which alternative scenarios and precisely choreographed steps were laid out beforehand. Another lesson we should learn from this crisis is that he who does not plan for himself is bound to find others planning for him.

And while Iraq may have lost the battle, we hope that it taught the other side how not to lose the peace; not again, for not only have the underlying tensions remained, but new tensions were added upon them. Should Israel and its Zionised West continue to believe that peace is only the absence of war, then we should commence immediately to prepare for the next battle.

At least two lessons should be drawn from this latest battle: One, that the Arabs will never give up and will continue to fight until their minimum demands have been met. And two, that with each battle, they learn new lessons about how to conduct a war. It took the might of thirty nations, including the three major western powers, the United States, Britain and France to face Iraq alone. And while we are learning the art of war and cruelty slowly, painfully slowly some would say, we are nonetheless learning. And we are learning by trial and error at the hands of masters in these arts: Israel and the West. Imagine had the power of Syria, Egypt and others been on the other side.

It is hoped that these lessons are not lost and that those with eyes to see will see. This western war by proxy on behalf of Israel brought the world to the brink of disaster, the next one may bring total disaster. And while there is no glory in this war, for the winners the hope remains that they may have learned something. What the region needs is not the management but the resolution of its crises.

## Which way Bush goes

"TRAGIC TURMOIL in the Middle East runs back to the dawn of history," U.S. President Ronald Reagan said on Sept. 1, 1982. "... This time we must not let (opportunity for broader peace) slip from our grasp. We must look beyond the difficulties and obstacles of the present and move with fairness and resolve toward a brighter future. We owe it to ourselves — and to posterity — to do no less. For if we miss this chance to make a fresh start, we may look back on this moment from some later vantage point and realise how much that failure cost us all." Eight-and-a-half years have passed since President Reagan unveiled his comprehensive plan to solve the Palestinian problem with these same words.

Now, after so much strife and violence since then, and a full-scale war later, another U.S. president tells us nearly the same thing. Do we believe him, or should we continue to be sceptical about whether the Americans could ever be serious on the need to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem? We profess inability to come with a yes or no answer. For our experience with successive American administrations is as uneasy and complicated as the history of the conflict itself. To this credit, though, George Bush did not come up with an integrated plan this time, since he knows — and has said — that in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 there is all we need to know about a fair and just solution to the Palestine problem. It is just a question of how we implement them, given that (high marks to President Bush again), in the modern age, "geography cannot guarantee security and security does not come from military power alone."

The Israelis are right (for a change) that Mr. Bush did not come up with anything new in his speech on Thursday morning. But they should know that for old diseases you can resort to old medicines sometimes. Resolutions 242 and 338 are there, have been around for 24 and 18 years respectively, and they represent international legitimacy and will. If Israelis are truly after peaceful solutions and coexistence they need not do more than accept them and contribute positively to finding a mechanism towards their implementation, through either an international peace conference or some other forum acceptable to all the parties concerned. Should Israel, on the other hand, be disinterested and continue its intransigent policies, then the world community has no choice but to apply the very same standard and method that it applied against Iraq over the occupation of Kuwait.

To his chagrin, President Bush did not suggest or indicate in his speech any explicit warning, let alone direct any threat, to make Israel comply with U.N. resolutions, just as he did with Iraq throughout the crisis. We do not really expect any U.S. president to go to war with Israel over its occupation of Arab territories and subjugation of their inhabitants. We are almost totally used to American double standards and hypocrisy in their approach to different issues in the Middle East to do that.

But what we do expect from the U.S. this time around is to withhold American support in the face of Israeli obstinacy, and to exert moral and economic pressure where political persuasion and diplomacy are failing. There will simply be no excuse for the U.S. president to be simultaneously commander-in-chief of the free world's forces east of the Jordan River and a helpless spectator of a brutal occupation west of it. If George Bush wants to be an impotent, crippled Ronald Reagan, this is neither the time nor the place to do it.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour daily newspaper criticised the Damascus declaration concerning the formation of an Arab force to ensure security in the Gulf. We would have really wanted to welcome this declaration had it not been designed to cause further splits among the Arabs and a new form of polarisation in the Arab World, said the paper. This declaration would have been welcomed by all Arab countries had it not been formed and supported by the U.S.-led alliance, said the paper. We look to this move as a bitter fruit of colonial powers' meddling in Arab affairs and a bad omen for the future of the Arab Nation which is bound to remain divided, the paper added. The declaration was made in the name of the Arab League which regrettably does not exist any more after it had been butchered by the allied forces, backed by certain Arab countries and its corpse moved to be buried in Cairo, the paper noted. With only half the Arab states the Arab League cannot be revived; and with further divisions among the Arabs nothing can be achieved, said the paper. The paper said that the Arabs need time to transcend their hatred to one another and remove the bitterness from their heart before they can embark on serious action to re-build solidarity which should engulf the whole Arab World so that the Arab League can be re-established as a strong force helping to back concerted efforts for a better future.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the U.S. and its allies, and world Zionism have continued their aggression on Iraq by carrying out a conspiracy in the southern regions of that country, instigating trouble for the Baghdad government. The paper said that the U.S. and its allies are making desperate efforts to tamper with the internal security of the Iraqi people after their conspiracy to annihilate the Iraqi military power during the war had failed. The paper said now that Iraq has adhered to all U.N. Security Council resolutions and implemented all their terms, there is a pressing need for the world community to evict the U.S. forces from southern Iraq. It said that the presence of occupation forces in a U.N. member country is bound to cause further instability and insecurity to the whole region. The paper said that the world community, should not forget the important role of evicting the occupation forces from southern Iraq and end the U.S.-led aggression on that country.

## Jordan dailies cast doubt on seriousness of President Bush's Middle East intentions

Al Ra'i daily Friday cast doubt about the seriousness of President George Bush in tackling the Middle East problem on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Although the principles are there and although the U.S. president stressed the need to settle the problem on the basis of swapping land for peace, one can only be doubtful about the whole affair due to lack of any credibility in America's policies, said the paper. As long as the Zionist lobby remains dominant in Washington's decision-making process and the U.S. administration's opposition to the idea of an international conference persists as has been the case over the past years, there can be no hope for Washington implementing Bush's desires, the paper noted. What also weakens our confidence in Washington's policies is the fact that the U.S. administration continues to act negatively towards Jordan's role in the whole issue in addition to Washington's continued support for Israel to absorb more Jews to be settled on occupied Arab land with American funds, the paper pointed out. But the paper added, lack of credibility in Bush's policies does not mean that Jordan opposes the main principles he put forward for settling the Arab Israeli conflict because Jordan supports the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and wants to exchange peace for land. The paper said acts speak louder than words, and one has to wait and see whether the U.S. administration really meant what the president had in mind despite the possible opposition of the Zionist lobby. The Arabs, who have been frustrated with the U.S. policies over the years, said the paper, and those full of hatred against the American administration for its atrocities in Iraq believe Bush's statement was only a manoeuvre to absorb the

Arab masses' wrath in the wake of the Gulf war. To prove them wrong, the paper said, Washington should have the Security Council issue a clear resolution ordering Israel to leave the occupied Arab lands.

### Watch for the Zionist lobby

President Bush's statements are close in form and content to Jordan's ideas but they are bound to remain mere words if the Zionist lobby succeeds in exercising pressure on the U.S. administration in a manner that would abort any applications of U.N. sanctions against the Jewish state if it fails to comply, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

No matter what Bush says about the future security and stability of the Middle East, his words can have no meaning at all unless they are put into practice and unless actions are backed by serious actions, said the paper. Bush statement, the paper noted, coincided with the start of a mission to the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and a favourable statement on the same topic by French President Francois Mitterrand.

The paper said that these moves and statements can only reaffirm the fact that Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-led aggression has now borne fruit, and forced the western allies to give due attention to the Palestine problem. Jordan has all along tried hard to have the Security Council resolutions on Palestine implemented, but Israel's intransigence and Washington's lack of serious and firm policies in this regard have thwarted all world community's efforts to bring about peace to the region the paper noted.

The paper said that unless Washington's words are backed by action to bring about a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine problem and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, Bush's statements will be a mere lip service for the Arabs.

### Remember the past

Al Dustour daily said that Bush's address to the U.S. Congress deserves attention, and Jordan can only welcome ideas related to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Bush statement can be described as very positive because it aims at settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, said Al Dustour in its editorial. But the paper said, one must remember the past American experiences when Washington's hegemony over the Middle East problem led to complications and further frustrations simply because the successive U.S. administrations had fallen under the Zionist lobby's pressure, and no favourable results came out of such proposals. Al Dustour warned against allowing the United States to play solo in the Arab Israeli issue, and in the search for political settlement to the crisis, and said that America's policies will remain futile if they continue to ignore the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation which represents the Palestinian people and which enjoys world-wide recognition. We can only welcome the president's statement with regard to the Palestine problem said the paper, but it remains to be seen whether the United States is serious about the implementation of U.N. resolutions.

## Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Kuwait conflict.

The speaker of the Palestine National Council, Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, said any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict "should take into consideration the basic rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and an independent state."

Sayeh said in an interview that Arabs should not "trust the United States until we see it fairly and justly implementing international legitimacy in this part of the world."

He said that the United States also should accept the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and "a major partner in any future peace talks with Israel."

Any settlement which ignores the PLO "will not be accepted by Palestinians and would only be a plot against us and the Arab and Muslim nations."

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called on Syria and Saudi Arabia to enter into peace negotiations with Israel.

This step "will help to normalise and improve relations with the Arab states and will create a positive atmosphere among the Palestinians as well, allowing to advance the peace initiative," Shamir said Friday.

Shamir made the statement during a meeting with visiting Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Shamir's office said.

Shamir has repeatedly called on Syria to begin peace talks, but it was his first such appeal to Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday that Israel sees its 1989 peace plan as the only road to a settlement with the Arabs, while Israeli leaders on the far-right spoke out against any move to give up occupied land.

The comments came as Western nations began a diplomatic offensive following the Gulf war to try to find an opening for settling Israel's conflict with the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab states.

Arens spoke on Israel Radio the day after European Community leaders and Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark urged a land-for-peace solution and talking to the PLO to start a

peace process.

"I don't see any alternative for Israel's peace initiative and I haven't heard of any alternative from the left or right," the defence minister said.

### Egypt welcomes

Egypt welcomed on Friday President Bush's call for peace and urged the Israelis to respond favourably.

Foreign Minister Espat Abdul Meguid said Bush's speech had contained positive points and Egypt supported U.S. efforts to achieve peace.

"We hope Israel will interact (positively) with this step so that a lasting, comprehensive peace prevails in the area in a way that guarantees the rights of all parties," he said.

### Damascus too

In Damascus, a government newspaper on Friday praised Mr. Bush for seeking a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It's the first time that an American president speaks with resolve determination of the necessity to implement 242 and 338... and for the first time an American president asserts that geography does not guarantee the security of Israel," the government-controlled daily Tishrin said in a front-page editorial.

"This American stand is positive and it will undoubtedly boost the positive role of the United States in the region and increase the possibility of establishing peace there on a just basis," added Tishrin.

### New U.N. envoy

At the United Nations the U.N. secretary-general, in a high-profile step to galvanise the Mideast peace process, has selected the Swiss ambassador to Washington as special representative for the region, U.N. officials say.

A formal announcement naming Edouard Brunner to the post was expected in the next few days, the officials, speaking on condition they not be named, said Thursday.

Brunner would replace Gunnar Yarring of Sweden, who retired in January at the age of 82, after years of political inaction on the U.N. Mideast front.

U.N. officials said they welcomed the statement by U.S. President George Bush on Wednesday night and by French President Francois Mitterrand

and other leaders that they intend to focus on Middle East matters, the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## Oil

(Continued from page 1)

needs our services, we are ready to provide them."

Before the Gulf crisis broke out last August, Jordan was importing 80 per cent of its oil needs by land from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia through the pipeline. On Sept. 15, Saudi Arabia, angry over Jordan's refusal to join the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition and its denunciation of foreign intervention in the region, cut oil supplies through the pipeline. Jordan then started receiving all of its oil needs from Iraq until the war broke out on Jan. 17 and the bombardment of tankers began.

Nearly 40 Jordanian tankers were hit by U.S. and allied bombardment, killing at least 9 Jordanian drivers and injuring many more. The government described the attacks as deliberate and U.S. officials justified the attacks on claims that they were carrying weapons parts for Iraq. The claims were later discredited by a U.S. spokesman.

The government introduced controversial energy conservation regulations including banning nearly half of the Kingdom's cars from the roads on alternate days.

Jordan gets its oil from Iraq at concessionary prices in repayment of Iraqi debts to the Kingdom accumulated over the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. Imports from Iraq, at \$16.50 per barrel (compared to international prices of over \$20) save the country badly-needed foreign exchange.

## Bush

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. officials as saying the Bush administration's plan for comprehensive peace is much less developed than its ideas for regional security. Baker's visit to the area would allow the Secretary of State "to listen, to probe, to offer suggestions and advance the search for peace and stability." While the U.S. has "no solely American answer" to the four challenges that confront it, it will still serve as "a catalyst for positive changes," Bush said. State Department officials said the tool of leverage to be used by Baker in the process is "persuasion."

Along with arms control, economic development and security arrangements in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the major four pillars of declared U.S. policy in the Middle East. Bush said the U.S. was ready to tackle these four "challenges" with "new vigour and determination" in the near future, now that the allied war against Iraq has been won and "aggression is defeated."

Since the U.S.'s commitment to peace in the Middle East does not end with "the liberation of Kuwait," Bush said, America stands ready to work with its allies and friends in the region who will have to "bear the bulk of responsibility for regional security." Such arrangements do not mean U.S. ground forces would be stationed in the Arabian Peninsula but they would certainly mean American participation in joint exercises involving air and ground forces, and a "capable U.S. naval presence" in the region, according to the president. The U.S.'s vital national interests depend on "a stable and secure Gulf," he said.

Bush reiterated the need to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles used to deliver them. He said until it convinces the world of its "peaceful intentions," Iraq must not have access to "instruments of war." The world must foster economic development for the sake of peace and progress.

Bush said, adding that the Middle East's resources and human potential, which were once spent on military might, must be "re-directed to more peaceful ends." As far as the U.S.'s arms production agenda, however, the U.S. president only referred to the need to avoid obsolete and "unnecessary weapons systems."

Bush's address contained nothing new in terms of substance. What came in it was far less concrete and less detailed than what the Secretary of State had himself stated to members of Congress last month as he outlined the Bush Administration's outlook for the region. However, analysts believe Bush's speech provided the basis for presidential involvement in the Middle East peace process. It also conveyed a sense of urgency to capitalise on "opportunities" for

peace which have opened up in the wake of the Gulf war.

The U.S. president said Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and "all those around him" are accountable for what happened to the Iraqi people, the Kuwaitis and to "the whole world." He expressed hope, however, that the world would at one point welcome the Iraqis into "the community of nations."

Bush said the "uncommon coalition" which "defeated" Iraq should now work in concert "to forge a new future that should never again be held hostage to the darker side of human nature."

In contrast to the relatively well defined foreign policy direction presented in his address, the U.S. President had a modest domestic agenda, focusing primarily on transportation and crime in the U.S. and the need to get the U.S. economy "rolling."

Commentators said that during his approximately 30-minute speech, Bush had received 21 rounds of applause, ten of them with standing ovations. Some have stated that although the president's popularity has shot up to an extremely high level following the allied military victory against Iraq, such popularity may be dampened if the president's domestic agenda fails.

Congressman Dante Fascell (D-Florida), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the speech was "very well received" in both the House and Senate. Fascell, who on Jan. 12 voted to authorise the president's use of military action against Iraq, expressed hope that the coalition's diplomatic success would translate into a resolution of the Middle East conflict. Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) said the speech was "very impressive" and "totally positive" especially in what he saw as an "appropriate" commitment to settle the Palestinian issue. In contrast, one U.S. citizen said the president's address made him wonder why Bush had not thought about peace before he went to war.

## Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

At least 4,000 Palestinian and other suspected collaborators have been jailed since last Wednesday when Iraqi troops pulled out of Kuwait, according to resistance officials manning

three police stations. It is unclear how much if any of this violence is linked to the senior ranks of government, which arrived from exile in Saudi Arabia Monday. The country's ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, has yet to return.

"They (the government) don't want an incident. They are worried they can't control it. The whole purpose of the government is to reestablish authority to try to bring life back to normalcy," said a senior Western diplomat this week.

It is unlikely that elections would be held while martial law, imposed after Kuwait's liberation, is in effect.

"If after three months the government and people find it is necessary that we extend martial law, we will not hesitate to do that no matter what others may say," the crown prince said.

"We have lived for centuries in this land a democratic, brotherly, friendly life," he said. "Our country is not a dictatorship. Everyone of you knows that. We are a consultative democracy and we will continue to do that."

He said a special committee was studying whether voting rights should be extended to women, whom he praised for their courage during Iraq's brutal rule.

He sharply criticised Jordan and other countries that he said supported Iraq. The prince also had angry words for some leaders in the Palestine Liberation Organisation but stressed that Kuwait would continue its support for the Palestinians and their struggle for a homeland.

## Baker

(Continued from page 1)

one hand and Israel and the Palestinians on the other.

Baker declined to provide details, but said Israel and the Arab states with which it is technically at war may explore some sort of confidence-building measures.

Part of Baker's mission will be to discuss ideas for regional arms control. However, ahead of the trip the Bush administration announced plans to ask Congress to approve the \$1.6 billion sale of sophisticated F-16 planes to Egypt, a key ally against Iraq.

Baker is expected to urge Saudi Arabian officials to play a greater role in regional post-Gulf war peace efforts, U.S. officials said.

هذا من الصور



## Women on the front line: Barbaric abuses of women in more than forty countries

AMNESTY International on March 8, 1991 called for an end to the "barbaric" abuse of women by state security forces in every region of the world. In its first major report on women victims of human rights violations, Amnesty International details abuses inflicted on women in over 40 countries and says the victims have included babies, teenagers, pregnant mothers and women in their sixties.

"The world's torturers, executioners and jailors are no less cruel to women," Amnesty International said. "No torture is deemed too barbaric to be inflicted on women, no term of arbitrary imprisonment too long."

The report — released on International Women's Day and submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women now meeting in Vienna — describes a wide range of abuses inflicted on women and men alike, as well as those suffered mainly by women simply because of their sex or their role in their family or society.

The human rights organisation said that governments have for years singled out women they see as outspoken critics or easy targets — women who demand respect for basic rights or those who will do almost anything to protect their children.

Female political activists in China and Myanmar have been unjustly jailed, black Mauritanian women have been gunned down by soldiers and female students in Turkey have been tortured.

"Young and old women are raped by prison guards, pregnant women are beaten, and others are used to get at their husbands or brothers," Amnesty International said.

Rape, for example, is one of the most common methods soldiers and prison guards use to torture women. In some countries it is commonly used to force confessions; in others it is used as punishment.

In India, reports of rape by police are so common that a newspaper has said "cop molests woman" is an almost daily story. In Peru, Amnesty International has documented a pattern of rape throughout the emergency zones where soldiers have sweeping powers.

"Rape is sometimes the torture method of choice," Amnesty International said, "simply because the social stigma in many cultures virtually guarantees that women won't talk about it afterwards."

Women refugees often have to deal with rape and sexual harassment both in their country and after fleeing. According to the United Nations, rape is often the persecution that drives them away from home and sexual favours are frequently the price for relief goods or documentation.

In many other cases, soldiers

and police officers have subjected women to a catalogue of sexual abuse or threats to intimidate them. Former prisoners have told Amnesty International of being fondled, molested, strip-searched without justification and threatened with rape. In one case in Chad, a group of 10 women prisoners were reportedly forced to work as prostitutes. For some women who were pregnant during their detention, such torture and ill-treatment or a lack of medical care has even led to miscarriages.

Governments will often exploit a woman's family connections to break her or her relatives. More than 70 Syrian women have been detained since 1987 because of the political activities of their husbands and sons; a gun was held to the head of a two-year-old child in Guatemala to force the mother to deliver a warning to her activist brother.

"Some of the most disturbing abuses, however, have no gender label," Amnesty International said. "Along with men, women are jailed after unfair trials, 'disappear' in military custody, and are shot dead by 'death squads' or soldiers."

The women who have "disappeared" — some after eyewitnesses saw soldiers take them away — have included suspected members of armed opposition groups in Sri Lanka, civilians in Peru's emergency zones and community activists in the Philippines.

Human rights activists and investigators have also been gunned down by "death squads" or soldiers. In South Africa, suspicion remains that an officially sanctioned "death squad" killed human rights lawyer Nonayamezelo Victoria Mxenge, even though an inquest and a subsequent inquiry reached no conclusion on who killed her. And in Colombia, a woman magistrate involved in investigating reported extrajudicial executions by the military was herself shot dead, apparently in such a killing.

Women, too, are among the thousands of people unjustly jailed on grounds of conscience or after trials that fall far short of international standards in many countries — trials where verdicts may be decided beforehand and appeals are unheard of.

Some women spend years in detention without ever being charged or tried, like opposition party leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar (Burma). Under house arrest since 1989, she was disqualified from last year's elections and has not been released despite her party's election victory.

"When governments ignore their responsibility to protect the rights of one sector of society," Amnesty International said, "no one's human rights are safe."

## UNICEF report draws grim picture of Jordanian children's health situation

### Too many mouths to feed, little on offer

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A mother, unable to feed her children and disabled husband, said she prayed that God would take away one or two of her family members so that she could afford to keep the rest alive.

An entire family of eleven people in Zarqa usually dines on two eggs, one onion, bread and tea.

A mother in one town never takes her children to the market any more, because she cannot stand the pain of not being able to buy them the fruits they see there.

In one urban neighbourhood, girls from adjacent families split up into morning and afternoon shifts — because they have to share the same school uniforms.

In a Jordan valley agricultural village, none of the five children of a sharecropper's family go to school because they are needed to help work the land.

Families have stopped sending their children to school rather than see them suffer shame, humiliation or punishment for coming to school without the necessary supplies or uniforms.

These were some of the recent anecdotes reported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) after a study conducted by the organisation's field officers across the Kingdom, and released on Thursday in a booklet entitled "Jordanian Children in the Eye of the Storm."

UNICEF's two-month study, which was conducted after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August and as a result of the consequent sanctions imposed on Jordan's main export market in Iraq and Kuwait, found that almost one million Jordanians have slipped below the poverty line.

The study revealed that the Gulf crisis helped in increasing the number of poverty-stricken families, rising from 23 per cent in 1988 to 30 per cent today. It added that those who live in absolute poverty — those who are unable to "afford minimum school supplies, medical care, shelter, or food" — have risen from three per cent in 1988 to five per cent; that is, over 150,000 people, "though the exact magnitude of the absolute poor today has not been quantified."

The rapid increase of poverty has caused nutritional deficiency among women and children. UNICEF's study found a rise in anemia and malnutrition among women and children. Around 250,000 children, under 12 years of age, are threatened by malnutrition.

"Teachers report the unprecedented phenomenon of drowsy and listless students who cannot concentrate, and sometimes even faint — because they do not get enough nutritious food at home," the report stated.

It added that the poor's diet consists of bread, tea, tomatoes, lentils and onions, with hardly any eggs, fresh fruits,

green vegetables, dairy products or meat.

"Many poor families often do not have enough money even to take advantage of the government's coupons for subsidised essential foodstuffs," the report said.

UNICEF attributed much of the increased poverty on the effects the Gulf crisis has had on the Kingdom, which it said has cost Jordan \$1.5 billion in loss of income from exports, transit trade, private remittances, debt repayments and official aid, as a result of the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq and Kuwait. In addition, a quarter of a million Jordanians "returned home to an economy that could not easily meet their employment, housing, health and education needs."

The report pointed out that Jordan was burdened with more than 865,000 third country nationals who fled Kuwait and Iraq in the first months after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last year. Jordan spent \$55 million to meet those refugees' emergency needs. The country had only been compensated for \$13 million by mid-January.

"In one family where eleven people had to share two blankets, the mother said she wished she were an evacuee from Iraq or Kuwait — so that she could provide her family with sufficient food, blankets, clean water and warm shelter," UNICEF reported.

"As unemployment and poverty increase further, and more and more families are unable to assure all their basic human needs, the health and education standards of hundreds of thousands of children and women will come under greater pressure," UNICEF said.

In addition to suffering from malnourishment, living below the poverty line — which is set at JD 89 (\$135) a month per family — has also brought about deterioration in health standards.

The report stated that environmental health and personal hygiene conditions have deteriorated because families, whose priority had become to pay for housing, food and education expenses, have been unable to afford enough clean water, soap and other hygiene needs.

"Deteriorating environmental health and personal hygiene conditions in poor households and neighbourhoods could cause a resurgence in child-killing communicable diseases," UNICEF warned.

The organisation said that some families living in unsanitary conditions make fewer visits to health care centres and clinics, which adds to their risk in missing out on information on preventive health habits.

The report warned that this "trend of declining hygiene and rising health ignorance could whittle away at Jordan's impressive gains in protecting its young against the leading child killer diseases, such as measles, pneumonia and severe diarrhoeal dehydration."



Long-term threats on poverty-stricken families have already begun to show some signs of danger, particularly the rise of low-birth weight or stillborn babies in Jordan.

In the last months of last year, "two major government hospitals reported that 30 per cent of all newborns were low birth-weight babies of under 2.5 kg. This is in marked contrast to a five to ten per cent low birth-weight average for Jordan before the crisis, and 12 per cent for the entire Middle East and North Africa region."

The report warned that nutritionally deprived babies will suffer vulnerability because of setbacks in their central nervous system, noting that 80 per cent of human brain cells develop in the first two years of life.

"If they survive past the age of five, these infants will always be more likely to suffer stunted physical and mental development. They will be subject to higher risks of disability, greater susceptibility to common ailments and diseases, learning problems, and a lower general level of mental alertness and comprehension," UNICEF reported.

Because poor children usually drop out of school at elementary or junior level in order to help make money for the family to survive, the report said that the future of these children holds a life of despair in their adulthood.

"(They) can look forward to an adulthood of unskilled, low-wage employment, at best, and life-long destitution and de-

spair at worst — a liability to their country, rather than a productive, creative asset," the report stated.

Regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, Richard Reid, recently said that "after Kuwait and Iraq, Jordan clearly is the most damaged victim of the Gulf crisis."

"Jordanian women and children are the most threatened today, and will continue to suffer in the foreseeable future unless substantial and immediate corrective measures are taken to protect them," Mr. Reid has said.

The report called on what it described as a "partnership of the government, non-government organisations, the private sector and international friends" to assist Jordan into standing on its own feet again and protect its most vulnerable victims: the mothers and children.

UNICEF's report concluded by stating that Jordan had always had a good record of protecting its vulnerable groups, but warned that this record was threatened if the Kingdom was left on its own. The report concluded: "The world must not stand by and watch Jordan pay the price for this crisis in the health and lives of its most vulnerable women and children. Jordan, as always, is already taking urgent steps to protect its children, its most valuable resources. But Jordan cannot do this alone. It needs the understanding, solidarity and active support of the international community — now."

Since 80 per cent of the human brain cells develop in the first two years of life, nutrition-deprived babies will suffer setbacks to their nervous system. The future for these children holds a life of despair in adulthood.



## EC

(Continued from page 1)

urging them to work for peace with the Arabs.

The EC backs Arab demands for an international Middle East peace conference on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri reaffirmed Jordan's policy of exchanging land for peace as advocated by the EC and stressed the need to impose sanctions on Israel in case it refused to implement the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

In a statement to Petra at the conclusion of visits to Jordan by the Canadian and EC foreign ministers, Masri said that a statement by U.S. President George Bush on the need for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the exchange of land for peace was identical to Jordan's position.

In reply to a question by Petra about Israel's prompt rejection of President Bush's statement, Masri said that Jordan was not surprised by this rejection, adding this was not the first time that Israel rejected U.N. resolutions since its occupation of Arab land in 1967.

But Masri said that Israel's refusal should not serve as an obstacle in the path of the imposition of Council sanctions on Israel to force it to comply with the will of the international community.

## Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Washington says a revolt in the south and in the north has spread to two dozen cities or towns. But the United States expects the Iraqi armed forces to crush the uprising.

Hussein accused President Hussein of a series of moves to prepare for a "massacre" in Iraq. He said the rebels controlled several cities including Basra.

American military officials in Saudi Arabia say Iraq's Republican Guard troops are steadily asserting control in the country's second city.

In Beirut, Lebanon's most prominent pro-Iranian leader accused President Hussein of using a "scorched-earth" policy of systematic destruction to quell the revolt.

Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, who maintains close links with Iraqi Islamic revolutionaries, also said the insurgency was "a spontaneous popular uprising" and not aimed at establishing a breakaway Shi'ite republic.

He said Basra was still in rebel hands, as were Karbala and Najaf, holy cities of Shi'ite Muslims, which he said had been bombed. Fadlallah denied the rebels were seeking to carve up Iraq and establish a fundamentalist republic in the south, where Shi'ites are a majority.

"The uprising is moving and has entered the Kurdish and Sunni (Muslim) areas and the Iraqi south is not only Shi'ite, there are Sunnis and Christians there."

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## Capriati, Fernandez and Graf advance at Slims of Florida

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP)—Jennifer Capriati beat her doubles partner, Mary Joe Fernandez outplayed her practice partner and Steffi Graf routed her nation's second-ranked player Thursday at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

Graf, seeded first but certain to lose her No. 1 ranking Monday to Monica Seles, looked sharp in her first match in more than a month and beat fellow German Anke Huber 6-0, 6-1.

Capriati, playing for the second time in 16 hours, advanced to the quarterfinals by sweeping Gigi Fernandez 6-3, 6-2. A short time later, they teamed to win a doubles match.

Third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez beat No. 12 Laura Gildemeister 7-5, 6-1. Both live in

the Miami area, and they frequently socialize and practice together.

Two other seeds lost in the third round of the \$500,000 tournament. Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia beat No. 7 Natalia Zvereva 6-3, 6-3, and Claudia Porwik of Germany beat No. 9 Helen Kelesi 6-4, 7-5.

The 16-year-old Huber, who has been called the next Steffi Graf, was seeded 14th and ranked 23rd. Graf knows a thing or two about the weight of expectations, and she saw it in Huber's play.

"I think she should loosen up," Graf said. "But a lot of people are expecting a lot from her, and I think it's sometimes a little difficult." Huber lost their only previous

meeting 6-3, 6-2, and this time she lasted just 45 minutes.

"Steffi played a great match," Huber said. "She didn't make any mistakes... I learned a lot. I have to serve much better and go to the net against such a good player. It's hard to make any points against her from the baseline."

In Graf's two previous tournaments this year, she lost in the quarterfinals. That ended a record streak of 64 consecutive trips to the semifinals.

Now, she claims to be back in top form, and it was hard to argue after she won all but 11 points in the first set against Huber.

While rustiness had been a concern for Graf, fatigue was the worry for Capriati, who survived a three-set match Wednesday night against Karin Kschwendt. But Capriati overcame weariness and shaky service games to dispatch her doubles partner.

It wasn't hard to beat a friend, the 14-year-old said.

"You just play the ball and forget who you're playing," she said. "In the locker room afterward she said, 'We're going to win (in doubles), right?' And so everything was cool — Thank God."

"She thought I was mad at her," Gigi Fernandez laughed. "We're very good friends — as close as you can be to someone half your age."

## Courier upsets Agassi in Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)—Jim Courier served ace at crucial points and upset second-seeded Andre Agassi 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the third round of the Champions Cup Tennis Tournament.

Courier, the 16th seed, won for only the second time in six matches with Agassi. His only other victory came in their first encounter, two years ago at the French Open.

"Last year I didn't have one win that stuck out," Courier said. "I had a close match with (Boris) Becker (that Becker won) and I didn't want that to happen today. It's a long time coming."

Courier advances to the quarterfinals of the \$1-million tournament, where he will play No. 7 Emilio Sanchez of Spain. Sanchez beat 10th-seeded Andre Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

In other third-round matches Thursday, top-seeded Stefan

Edberg rallied behind a forceful serve-and-volley game to defeat Darren Cahill of Australia 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

"This was a tough one," said Edberg, the defending champion of this tournament. "It took guts to win, and I hung in there. When I got a chance to break him (in the second set), I took over."

Edberg will play No. 9 Michael Chang in the quarterfinals Friday. Chang advanced by defeating Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

No. 3 Guy Forget of France rolled past Derrick Rostagno 6-3, 6-1. Also advancing was No. 11 Michael Stich of Germany, who defeated Fabrice Santoro of France 4-6, 3-6, 6-4. Serving at 5-4 for the match, Stich unleashed four straight aces.

In the quarterfinals, Forget will play Scott Davis and Stich will face Richey Reneberg.

Courier went up 3-1 in the third set before Agassi closed to 4-3.

Courier opened the eighth game with an ace, then had to go to his second serve 10 straight times.

Agassi had five break points, but Courier fought him off, including with an ace at the fourth break point, and the game went to deuce six times. Agassi fell down at game point and still managed to get off a forehand, but it barely went wide.

Courier had two match points in the final game. Agassi saved one to cut it to 40-30, but Courier served another ace to win the match.

Courier had 11 aces to Agassi's three. "He started missing and I started taking the pace off the ball to slow it down," Courier said. "It's frustrating to have close matches and lose."

"This match may not take me over the hump, but we'll see. It was a tough match."

## Ben Johnson falters at Seville indoor athletics championships

SEVILLE, Spain (AP)—Ben Johnson stumbled and nearly fell in the men's 60-metre heats at the World Indoor Athletics Championships Friday.

The Canadian star looked tense and nervous before the race. After five steps he stumbled and appeared about to fall. But he stayed on his feet and went on to finish the race, placing second to Michael Rossweiss of Britain in the slow time of 6.75 seconds.

The race marked Johnson's return to a major international track event after his two-year disqualification for drugs that rocked the Seoul Olympics. It was the first time since Seoul he wore the Canadian team colours.

Johnson had said his biggest problem after his comeback was his start, once the key to his world-record times in 1987 and 1988.

"I have no power," he said in Seville at the eve of the championships.

He was not only slow in his heat but also clumsy. The famous kick that gave him an edge over competitors appeared gone.

Johnson admitted he would have to work hard over the next two months prior to the outdoor season to fix his first steps.

A good start is essential for victory indoors, with sprints going just 60 metres, leaving little room for comebacks.

The men's sprint heats were dominated by Andre Cason of the United States in 6.52, just 3/100ths of a second off the world record set by fellow American Leroy Burrell.

Cason's effort was the third-fastest time of this season and his personal best.

Lindford Christie of Britain ran the second-fastest times of the heats, 6.61.

Heavy favourite Merlene Ottey of Jamaica topped the women's 60-metre qualifications in an easy 7.16 seconds.

Johnson was banking on his Seville performance to get revenge over critics who opposed his comeback and to restore a good reputation after the discovery of his steroid use shook the world of track and field.

It also cost him an Olympic gold, two world records and millions of dollars in lost endorsements.

"Most of the athletes have been pointing a finger at me. I haven't been pointing a finger at them. But that's always the way it's going to be," he said before the competition.

Two of Johnson's most prominent competitors — American Carl Lewis and Linford Christie of Britain — have criticised all the attention focused on Johnson and the rich appearance money he has been getting from meet organisers since his comeback began on Jan. 11.

## Holmes keeps IBF title

MADRID (AP)—IBF super middleweight champion Lindell Holmes has kept his crown with a split-decision victory over challenger Antoine Byrd.

The Detroit native threw the heavier punches through the 12-round fight, decisively taking the early and late rounds in the match seen by 5,000 fans at Madrid's Sports Palace.

In the middle rounds, the quicker challenger made a spirited bid for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, storming the slow-moving Holmes with lightning right jabs and numerous combinations.

By the end, the lighter build of Byrd succumbed to the powerful body punches of the champion, who matched him in the 167-pound-limit (75.9-kilogramme) weight category but seemed stronger.

Judge John Whitt of the United States scored the fight 111-117 for Holmes and U.S. Judge Eugene Grant scored it 113-115 for the champion.

## Norwich aims to end Clough's cup dreams

LONDON (R)—Norwich City will be aiming to end Brian Clough's dreams of adding the Football Association (F.A.) Cup to his impressive list of triumphs when they meet Nottingham Forest in a quarter-final tie Saturday.

The F.A. Cup is the only domestic honour to elude Clough in his 16 years as Forest manager, a spell which has also seen the club twice win the European Cup.

Forest go to Norwich's Carrow Road with the psychological edge provided by a 6-2 win there in the league in January.

But Norwich manager Dave Straker believes that defeat will spur on his men, who beat holders Manchester United in the previous round.

"No professional likes to go through that kind of humiliation and the players are determined it won't happen again," he said.

Norwich recall midfielder Ian Crook following a hamstring injury.

Forest are hoping Nigel Clough, the manager's son, will recover from a thigh strain but they expect to be without influential England midfielder Steve Hodge.

Third division Cambridge United have an injury worry over midfielder Richard Wilkins ahead of their quarterfinal at first division.

sion leaders Arsenal Saturday. Wilkins, the most expensive player in the Cambridge side at a mere £70,000 (\$130,000), has a damaged shoulder.

Arsenal will be without Swedish winger Anders Limpar who suffered a recurrence of ankle ligament trouble this week.

North London rivals Tottenham will be able to call on England's Paul Gascoigne, scorer of four F.A. Cup goals this season, for Sunday's home tie with second division Notts County.

Gascoigne has a serious groin injury which will eventually require surgery.

The last quarterfinal tie between second division leaders West Ham and Everton will be played Monday.

In the first division, Liverpool attempt to end a run of three successive defeats at fifth-placed Manchester City Saturday.

Victory for Liverpool would put them level on points with Arsenal at the top.

Aston Villa expect to give new signing Gary Penrice his debut at home to Luton.

Villa, hovering just above the relegation zone, paid £1 million (\$1.90 million) to second division Watford for the striker Thursday.

Luton are a point better off than Villa but have yet to win away in the league this season.

## Yugoslav expects to get U.S. soccer coaching job

NEW YORK (AP)—Bora Milutinovic, a Yugoslav who coached Mexico in the 1986 World Cup and Costa Rica in the 1990 World Cup, said he expects to become coach of the U.S. national soccer team.

Milutinovic, in a telephone interview Thursday night from his home in Mexico City, said he plans to meet Monday in Los Angeles with U.S. soccer Federation President Alan Rothenberg. Milutinovic said his agent, Nick

Petrovich, will attend the meeting and that he expects to be offered the job at that time.

"I foresee the possibility to work with the American team," Milutinovic said. "I expect an offer to be made. I'd like to work with the American team. I think it is a big challenge."

Rothenberg, speaking from his home in Los Angeles, confirmed that the meeting would take place, and said he intended to make a final decision next week.

## Japanese wins cross-country ski race at Winter University Games

SAPPORO, JAPAN (AP)—Miwa Ohta Friday became the first Japanese to capture three gold medals in the Winter University Games by winning the women's 15-kilometre cross-country freestyle race.

Her compatriot, Kazuhiro Sato, won the men's 10,000-metre speed skating. Corinne Schmid-Hauser took the women's giant slalom for Switzerland's first gold medal and Germany captured its second gold when Heike Warnicke won the women's 5,000-metre speed skating.

With only one day left in the competition, Japan remained atop in the gold medal standings

with 12. The Soviet Union, which failed to take the gold Thursday and Friday, was second with five. The United States, Germany, Austria, and South and North Korea had two each.

In past winter games, Japan never had won more than three golds.

Ohta, who already won the 10-kilometre classical and the 10-kilometre combined races, led all the way Friday and won the race in 15:06.6. She was more than 45 seconds ahead of Vera Fedorova of the Soviet Union, who was clocked in 15:52.1.

Irina Tarasenko of the Soviet Union took the bronze medal in 16:02.3.

Sato covered the distance in 14:58.20, beating Russian Andrey Krivosheev, who took the silver in 15:01.17. Ronald Bobker of the Netherlands earned the bronze in 15:15.85.

Warnicke, who finished second overall in the World Speed Skating Championships, easily won the race in 7:44.97, nearly 10 seconds ahead of Carla Zijlstra of the Netherlands, who was clocked in 7:54.12.

The 21-year-old Zijlstra, ninth in the overall standings at this season's World Championships, won the gold medal in the women's 3,000-metre Wednesday.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 9, 1991

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have many ideas and you feel you are the one who will have to take the brunt of what is put in motion today and you are right so be careful.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) You feel you have to make many limitations at present that you would be wise to concentrate upon them with some success that they are soon behind you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Older friends can give you very good advice what you had better do if you want to bring your cherished longings right into the palm of your hand.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to learn about any rules or laws that apply to you and then you will be able to carry them through conscientiously.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to see and believe sources of information that are available to you and they release some data that is important and that you need in your work.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out now to spend much time attending to the obligations and responsibilities that are basically yours and don't fret if they are not easy.

**LIBRA:** (Sept. 23 to October 22) Think over what your partners expect from you and be sure that you scrupulously observe to the letter and the spirit whatever you have agreed to do.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is the day to definitely tie yourself down to the duties at hand and to refrain from objecting to the project that is expected of you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Make sure now that you do open yourself to pleasure you have enjoyed for sometime and don't go off looking for some new undertakings.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to stick to your family and what they ask of you even though you think it foolish and want to do other things.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Stick to that assignment or project that is your natural task even though you feel that you are being imposed upon by others you know.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You feel you are pretty much in luck where the things of this world are concerned but if you want more income its necessary you work for it.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has all kinds of special capabilities for matters connected with the home and in the arts of trade. Because this child has a basic understanding of how to achieve harmony at their residence and to merchandise wares and products with uncanny awareness others will seek to share their problems with them.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## THE BETTER HALF.

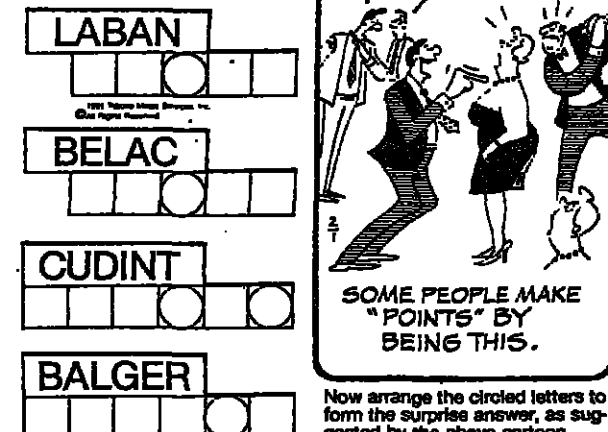
By Harris



"When I said I wanted to see some tenderness, he showed me his infected tooth."

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

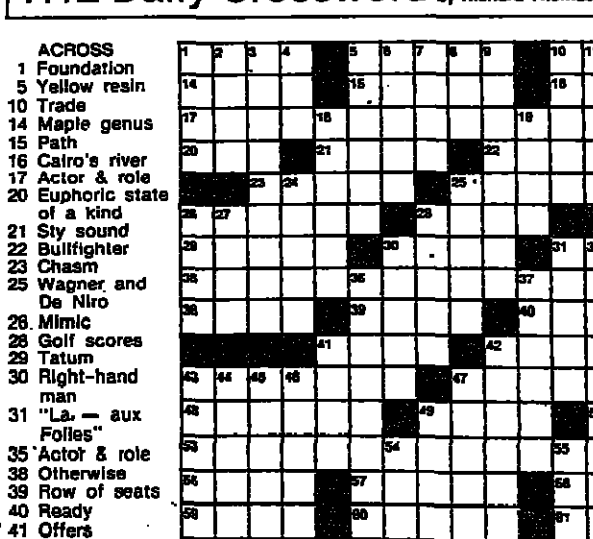


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumble: BRAUL YIELD WALNUT ADROIT  
Answer: What that deadbeat was always trying to borrow—HIS WAY OUT OF DEBT

## THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. SCAMP  
2. HALL  
3. LALA  
4. YAMER  
5. EMIL  
6. GRAD  
7. ABBE  
8. ALDE  
9. WAFER  
10. BARROW  
11. LUTE  
12. AKIN  
13. GARD  
14. NEWSBOOM  
15. WILES  
16. ROTS  
17. COP  
18. WITS  
19. SEVERE  
20. HITS  
21. BEAT  
22. BLATANT  
23. CASTAWAY  
24. PAPER  
25. TEAD  
26. EVIL  
27. BOOED  
28. KIDNAP  
29. BUNK  
30. DONAT  
31. ELBA  
32. ALICE  
33. ELITE  
34. BEER  
35. TEST  
36. DIETER  
37. SORR  
38. Vigilant  
39. Cuban cash  
40. New Orleans  
41. school  
42. Hordes  
43. Slow down  
44. Meteorology  
45. ab  
46. Indigo snub  
47. Calumet  
48. cornucopia  
49. Waterway  
50. Movie makers  
51. Agana's land  
52. Spot  
53. Wages  
54. Salad item  
55. Indonesian  
56. Island  
57. Runner-up  
58. Fr. sculptor  
59. Piano piece  
60. Portion  
61. portions  
62. Carries  
63. Courtyard  
64. Regal  
65. Jeanne d'—  
66. title  
67. Afternoon  
68. function

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AK103 ♥873 ♦KJ106 ♣AK  
What is your opening bid?  
A.—Even if you play 16-18 no trumps, we think this hand is too strong for such action. Point count undervalues aces and kings and does not give due credit to tens. We feel this hand is worth 19-20 points, so our choice is one diamond, intending to jump in no trump at our next turn, depending on partner's response.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AK103 ♥873 ♦KJ106 ♣AK  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—We trust you do not accuse us of being inconsistent. Above, we stated that we thought this hand worth 19-20 points and that has not changed. Therefore, we would raise to four spades and consider three spades to be a distinct underbid.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Void ♠AQ872 ♦KJ653 ♣K107  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♥ 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Dbl  
What action do you take?  
A.—What an unpleasant situation! Certainly, it can't be right to pass, and you can't repud such a ratty suit freely at the three-level. Although we secretly admire those who trot out three clubs, it goes against our nature. That leaves only two no trump—a poor thing, but our own. At least partner will know that we are short in spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K7 ♠AJ65 ♦AK764 ♣K5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♥  
What action do you take?  
A.—You almost certainly can make a game—three no trump should be in the bank. However, unless partner is highly distributional, you can pick up a useful piece of change at no risk whatsoever by doubling. We would expect 800 or better.

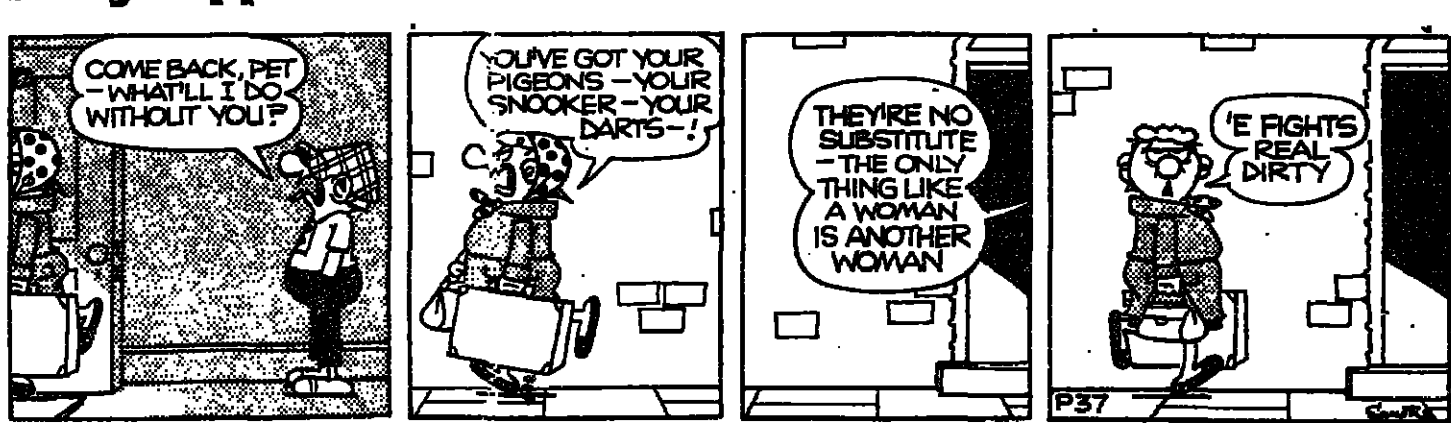
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K7 ♠AJ65 ♦AK764 ♣K5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♥  
Dbl Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—You have not yet shown partner your great strength. Since North has shown a long, good club suit and, probably, heart shortness, you are in slam, possibly grand slam, territory. We would start with a cue-bid of three hearts, but are prepared to award consolation points to those who leaped directly to six clubs.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AK8742 ♥5 ♦A762 ♣A7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
23 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Even though North, a passed hand, was not strong enough to jump to four spades, we can construct many hands your partner could have where a small slam would be laydown. We suggest one try below game level. Bid four diamonds. If partner can do no more than sign off with four spades, we would pass.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



هذا من الأهل



## Lot to go private

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The government plans to sell up to a 19 per cent interest in the Polish airlines Lot to private shareholders.

At least a 51 per cent share of the national carrier would be retained by the state treasury under a draft law approved by the prime minister and his cabinet.

The law must be approved by parliament, but airline officials said the government endorsement will allow the search for commercial partners to begin.

The Gulf crisis has caused Lot severe losses from higher fuel prices and cancelled flights to the Middle East, which represented a significant portion of the carrier's routes.

Lot's director, Bronislaw Klimaszewski, said in mid-February that the airline had not been in such difficult financial circumstances since 1982, after the communist government imposed martial law and commercial and tourist contacts abroad were limited.

The Lot fleet of 11 airplanes includes only three Boeing 737s. The rest are Soviet-made planes, which Klimaszewski described as "fuel guzzling."

Lot flies to 37 airports in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America and has regular charter connections to four others. The airline serves seven Polish cities.

Privatization Minister Janusz Lewandowski told a news conference that the sale of the Polish light bulb company to the Dutch conglomerate Philips and the sale of the Fampa paper-making machine factory to the U.S.-owned Beloit Corp. prove the new government's "capability of making quick decisions."

Lewandowski said the government pushed aside red tape to permit the speedy sale of the two companies, the first time foreign investors have obtained controlling interest of state-owned enterprises in Poland.

Philips is purchasing 51 per cent of Polam. Before the sale, the government had estimated Polam's value at \$10 million.

## Saudis may slightly cut oil output

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, may agree to a small cut in its crude output to support oil prices in the short term if other OPEC members do the same, Gulf oil industry sources said Friday.

They added that Iran, by announcing it will raise output by 100,000 barrels per day (b/d) just days before a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was indicating it wanted a key role in any deal on output levels.

Ministers of the 13-member group will hold a market monitoring meeting in Geneva Monday, which could turn into an emergency session to set new output quotas.

OPEC suspended quotas last August to enable its members to make up for the four million b/d lost after Iraq invaded fellow

OPEC member Kuwait. "Saudi Arabia will call the shots at the OPEC meeting, they might cut output a little if the others do, but not much," a senior industry executive in the Gulf said.

The sources said Saudi Arabia wanted other OPEC members who had benefited from the suspension of quotas, namely the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Venezuela and to some extent Iran, to share the two million b/d cut required to keep oil prices above \$10 per barrel.

Saudi Arabia currently pumps around 8.2 million b/d, almost three million above its 5.4 million b/d level last August.

The sources said the kingdom, which has spent billions of dollars supporting the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq, will seek a deal to maximise its revenues by mopping up some excess OPEC

output but keeping its share more or less intact.

OPEC's output ceiling was set at 22.5 million b/d in July. Current crude output is around 23 million b/d, some two million above demand in the second quarter of this year, when demand seasonally slumps at the end of the northern hemisphere winter.

Iraq and Kuwait will be left out of the quota structure as their shattered oil industries are unlikely to resume production for some time.

The Middle East benchmark Dubai crude was on sale in Tokyo Friday for around \$14.70 per barrel, well below the \$18 it fetched before the Iraqi invasion.

The UAE has boosted output to around 2.4 million b/d in February from 1.6 million in August, while Venezuela's produc-

tion is up to 2.3 million b/d from 1.9 million.

Iran now pumps around 3.2 million b/d of crude and was producing as much as 3.45 million b/d at the end of last year, well above its level of around three million last August.

Iranian Oil Industry Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh said Wednesday his country would start producing 100,000 b/d more in the coming days.

Oil industry sources said Iran wanted to mark a higher output level as its maximum capacity as a bargaining chip when the issue of quota-sharing faces the ministers.

But they said Iran, with its limited production capability and 30 million barrels of unsold crude stocks stored on ships outside European ports, would agree to an output cut to maintain prices at least around current levels in the second quarter.

## World Bank looks for special role in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank wants to play a role in Iraq as well as other countries of the Middle East, E. Patrick Coady, U.S. representative on the bank's board of executive directors said Thursday.

Coady spoke after the announcement that President George Bush has named Lewis Preston, former head of J.P. Morgan and Co., to be the bank's next president. Coady did not allude to the announcement.

The bank is the biggest source of aid to Third World countries. "Yemen, Jordan and Egypt qualify for special concessional aid," he said. "Real economic vitality in Iraq will obviously depend on the resolution of forces that I'm not expert to talk on, only to say that at the appropriate time the World Bank would like to play a role."

Countries where the average income is \$600 a year or less can get loans at almost no interest, repayable in 40 years.

Coady said that countries where the income is less than \$4,000 a year can also get help. This consists of loans at rates of interest like those that commercial banks charged, but for much longer periods — as much as 20 years — than commercial banks normally give.

"The Gulf crisis has obviously shaken existing economic relationships," Coady said. "Literally millions of guest workers have lost jobs and need to be resettled. In many countries tourist receipts have been adversely affected, which were an important part of their foreign exchange. This is particularly true in countries like Morocco, Egypt and Turkey," he noted.

"Special trade arrangements across the board have been disrupted. And of course quite obviously in Kuwait and Iraq there is massive reconstruction that needs to take place," he pointed out.

## Yamani says oil price could plunge to \$12

PARIS (R) — Oil prices, currently around \$20 a barrel, could tumble to \$12 when Iraq starts exporting crude again, former Saudi Arabian oil minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted Friday as saying.

He told the French daily Le Figaro in an interview that short-term oil prices would depend on when Iraq was able to restart exports and on how quickly Kuwait's damaged oil fields could be repaired.

Kuwait's oil production has been halted by the Iraqi destruction of its fields, and Iraq exports have been stopped by a United Nations embargo on trade with Baghdad.

Yamani, who now runs a London-based energy institute, said: "A lot depends on the moment Iraq once again becomes an exporter and the level of its production. The future also depends on what happens to Kuwait's damaged oil fields. But the moment Iraq starts producing and exporting, prices will collapse."

Asked how much prices could fall, Yamani replied: "God only knows, perhaps they could drop to \$12 per barrel."

He said he expected Iraq to be selling crude on world markets by June at the latest.

Yamani said a conference of oil producers and consumers called by Iran for May was too early. He said such a meeting should be held in about a year's time.

Yamani said crude oil prices would still fall by \$2 to \$3 even if OPEC manages to cut its output ceiling to 21 million b/d.

## Resistance grows to Algerian reform

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government's plans to shift from socialism to a market economy are facing growing resistance from trade unions and opposition parties.

Critics say economic liberalisation has led to higher prices and a credit squeeze. Businessmen complain that their access to foreign exchange remains strictly controlled.

The UGTA trade union federation has threatened a two-day general strike in protest against rising prices and is due to make a decision Saturday.

The government says the criticisms are unfounded. Commerce Minister Smail Goumezzane said the only alternative would be for Algeria to become a slave to the International Monetary Fund.

Critics "have never offered an economic alternative of any kind," Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci said Wednesday.

Hedouci is the main architect of reforms launched in 1988 to dismantle 20 years of socialist economics under the National Liberation Front (FLN).

Reforms have accelerated in recent months with the authorisation of joint ventures and import-export companies which can now compete with state monopolies.

The government plans to make the Algerian dinar convertible by the end of this year. Since late February Algerians with long-term bank deposits can buy limited amounts of foreign exchange with dinars to official rates.

But the local press has reported sharp rises in the cost of medicines, building materials, cooking oils, tobacco and public trans-

port. "Clearly citizens are today facing real difficulties due to a high cost of living... and the increases are a major obstacle to supply and investment," wrote national assembly president Abdul Aziz Belkhadem in an open letter to prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.

A local radio station reported angry scenes as housewives protested against sudden increases in the prices of fruit and vegetables. Even a member of the FLN's politburo, Amar Tou, voiced criticisms.

In an article in a local paper he wrote it had been expected that the reforms would lead to "an abundance of merchandise and inputs... but only an unbridled surge in prices seems to have been applied."

Goumezzane said a return to "controlled prices and easy credit will not guarantee anyone's election or political future."

The UGTA (the General Union of Algerian Workers) is strongly critical of the government's economic policies which it says could lead to paralysis.

The union said uncontrolled prices were "an immediate threat to social peace and the country's stability."

In press advertisements, private businessmen complained that the government was sidelining them by limiting their access to imports and foreign exchange.

Hachemi Cherif, leader of the left-wing Avant-Garde Socialiste Party, told a radio interview Wednesday "the sudden surge in prices will fuel the crisis on which the Islamic fundamentalists are feeding."

## Iran drills into world's largest offshore gas field

DUBAI (R) — Iran has drilled an exploratory well in a huge oil and gas field off the coast of the Gulf, where the world's largest offshore gas field is located, the world's largest.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh, quoted by Tehran radio, said Iran would invest \$1.5 billion to produce and transfer the gas from the North Field reservoir it shares with Qatar.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Iran was after a percentage of Qatar's future revenues from the field, the world's largest.

"Iran is after a pay check every month. They want to scare Qatar," one industry source said. Iran said last year that 20 per cent of the North Field reservoir, which is now estimated to hold some 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, was on its side of the median line dividing the shallow waters of the Gulf.

Qatar officially made no comment. Oil officials in Doha privately said a few months ago that Tehran had not directly approached Qatar on its claims on the field.

"With the amount of gas in place at North Field, I think Qatar wants to leave Iran to drill from its side if it wants to," an oil

industry executive said. The sources said Iran's announcement on an exploratory well came less than two weeks after Qatar signed a long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal with Japan's Chubu Electric Power Company starting in 1997.

The shallow Khuff formation under the Gulf, where the gas lies, could extend into Iran's side, but the main reservoir was under Qatari waters, they added.

Iran owns the world's second largest natural gas reserves after the Soviet Union with over 14.5 trillion cubic feet.

"Iran could spend that \$1.5 billion more effectively on developing its onshore gas fields," an oil industry source in the Gulf said.

Qatar has spent \$1.2 billion so far to develop the first phase of the North Field project to supply its own industries with around 800 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The first phase, which started in 1988, was expected to be completed last month, but the commissioning was delayed for a couple of months due to gas leaks — denied by Qatar — and an exodus of foreign experts.

Qatar wants to export its gas to its Gulf neighbours by pipelines and to the Far East in LNG form.

On Feb. 22 it signed a letter of intent with Japan's Chubu to supply four million tonnes per year of LNG for 25 years starting from 1997.

The LNG project, which involves a six million tonnes per year capacity liquefaction plant and at least seven LNG tankers, is expected to cost several billion dollars. Qatar plans to find other customers for its excess two million tonnes of LNG.

Azagadeh said Iran planned a daily export of up to three billion cubic feet of gas to Europe — nearly 10 times the amount it started pumping through a pipeline to the Soviet Union last year.

Tehran radio said Iran planned to produce one million cubic feet of gas and 50,000 barrels of gas liquids daily from the field. The well was drilled by Iran's state-owned Offshore Oil Company, the minister said.

Azagadeh did not say when production would begin, but the radio quoted him as saying agreement had been reached with Italian and Soviet firms to drill, pump and transfer the gas from the field. He did not name the firms.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 7, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	492.3	495.3
Pound Sterling	1265.5	1273.1	Dutch guilder	385.3	387.6
Deutschemark	434.3	436.9	Swedish crown	117.1	117.8
Swiss franc	496.4	501.4	Italian lira (for 100)	58.2	58.5
French franc	127.6	128.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	209.7	211.0

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8805/15	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1615/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.5535/40	Deutschemark	
	1.7500/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.3530/35	Swiss francs	
	32.00/05	Belgian francs	
	5.2840/90	French francs	
	1159/1160	Italian lire	
	136.20/30	Japanese yen	
	5.7470/7520	Swedish crowns	
	6.0670/0720	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9700/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	367.00/50	U.S. dollars	

## Romania receives \$300m bridging loan from BIS

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has received a bridging loan of \$300 million arranged by the Basic Bank for International Settlements (BIS), marking the country's return to the international credit market after a 10-year break, National Bank governor Mugur Isarescu said Friday.

Isarescu said the loan would tide Romania over financial difficulties until it started receiving a standby credit already agreed with the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said the BIS bridging loan was received Thursday and would help Romania overcome balance of payments problems brought on by higher winter energy costs.

"This bridging loan marks Romania's comeback to the international financial community after a break of more than 10

years," Isarescu said. The BIS and central banks in 12 developed countries had contributed to the bridging loan, he said.

Washington confirmed Thursday it was contributing \$40 million. The loan will ease Romania's financial burden as it contends with a 1990 current account balance of payments deficit of \$1.5 billion and a forecast deficit of \$1.7 billion in 1991.

The IMF agreed in January to give Romania a credit package worth almost \$1 billion, including a \$540 million standby loan plus \$356 million in oil import assistance under the IMF's contingency and compensatory financing facility.

The credits are intended to help Romania press on with reforms aimed at building a market economy.

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Cinema Tel: 699238

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER NO. 10/91/SP SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES

- The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of 30 km 8" and 12 km 12" black steel pipes.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of black steel pipes.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100 Telex 22439 JO Fax. 679143.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in the conditions of contract and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday 09/04/1991.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi  
Secretary-General  
Water Authority

## Strike by Soviet miners holds firm

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet miners said Friday that a wage strike in the country's biggest coalfields was holding firm and nearby 60 pits would stay out over the weekend.

A national holiday meant mines throughout the country were automatically closed Friday. Strike leaders said the protest would resume Saturday at five coalfields, including the giant Ukrainian Donbass and Siberian Kuzbass basins.

The week-long protest is already hitting production of steel and the government has warned it could throw the whole of Soviet industry into turmoil.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has accused some Russian politicians of whipping up labour unrest in the mines and called their behaviour suicidal and irresponsible.

The independent Postfactum news agency reported that strikers in the Donbass had asked for support from miners' trade unions throughout the world.

The official news agency TASS said lost production from five mines alone in the Krasnoarmeysk region of the Donbass totalled 100,000 tonnes of coal. Financial losses amounted to about 15 million roubles (\$26.6 million at the inflated official exchange rate).

A strike committee spokesman in the Donbass said 20 mines there would continue the strike Saturday and 11 more were refusing to load and ship coal.

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## Britain's ruling Conservatives suffer stunning by-election loss

LONDON (AP) — In a swift and painful reversion to domestic politics after the Gulf war, Prime Minister John Major's Conservative Party Friday lost its north England stronghold of Ribblesdale to centrists.

The Liberal Democratic Party overturned the previous election's 19,528-vote Tory majority to take the prosperous, mainly rural district by 4,601 votes in a solid protest against local taxation.

The result of Major's first electoral test in the ballot Thursday — his 100th day in office — marked the Tories' worst special election upset in more than a decade. Britons regard such by-elections as equivalent to a barometer of public opinion about the government's policies.

It overshadowed the prime minister's strong personal ratings which soared during the war and also dampened speculation he will call an election in June, a year before the deadline.

Major said it was impossible to "draw any conclusions" from the Ribblesdale vote. Speaking to

reporters outside his Downing Street office, Major predicted his Conservative party would win a general election.

The 24 per cent vote swing against the government in Ribblesdale, previously the party's 10th safest seat in the 650-member House of Commons, lent new urgency to government attempts to overhaul the so-called poll tax before nationwide local government elections on May 2.

"The result is very bad for us," Conservative Party Chairman Chris Patten said. "It is disappointing... it does have a message for us about the community charge."

The community charge is the official name for the poll tax, a per head tax levied on every adult irrespective of income. It was introduced by former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in England last year to replace property taxes.

The tax has reduced taxes for the better off and sparked rioting in central London last year.

"This victory of the Liberal Democrats tonight has put paid

to the poll tax," the party's candidate, teacher Michael Carr, 44, declared when the result was announced in a school hall in Hurst Green. The remainder was split among fringe candidates.

The result contrasted with the Tories' widening lead in nationwide opinion polls since Mrs. Thatcher resigned on Nov. 28 after a Conservative Party revolt.

Major has turned round a lag of around 14 points behind the Labour Party during Mrs. Thatcher's last year in power.

The latest national sounding by Gallup published in London's Daily Telegraph Friday showed the Conservatives shooting to an 8.5 per cent lead up from a 0.5 point deficit in Gallup's survey a month ago. The Tories had 45 per cent, Labour 36.5 and the Liberal Democrats 13 per cent.

Another Gallup survey showed Major with a huge 59 per cent personal satisfaction rating — six points above Mrs. Thatcher's peak rating after her second general election victory in 1983.

Major's popularity has been soaring following the Gulf war.

An exit poll in Ribblesdale predicted the upset result. But it also showed that a majority of Tory voters said they planned to return to the party in a general election.

However, the Liberal Democrats, who battle to survive in the centre of British politics dominated by the Conservatives and Labour, declared they were on track to becoming a major force.

For the Tories, Ribblesdale was worse than another shock defeat in the south England district of Eastbourne last October. The Liberal Democrats took Eastbourne in a 19 per cent swing against the government which helped bring about Mrs. Thatcher's downfall.

In the House of Commons, the loss of Ribblesdale merely denied the Tories' majority over all the other parties in the House combined to 95 seats.

The Conservatives have 372 Commons seats, Labour 228 and the Liberal Democrats 21. The rest are held by minority regional parties.

## Manila seeks foreign advice on bases

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines has invited the United States and four other countries to join a regional discussion on whether American military bases should be allowed to remain here, sources said Friday.

Filipino sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said invitations have also been sent to Japan, China, Australia and South Korea to join informal talks here in June on the future of the bases, whose lease expires in September.

The talks will take place as part of a security dialogue of the Association of South East Asian Nations, which includes the Phi-

lippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

"Focus of the dialogue is on regional security, perceptions of countries in the region, alternatives to the U.S. security umbrella and prospects for regional security cooperation," one source said.

The talks are seen as an effort by Manila to forge a regional consensus on the need for the bases to counter domestic opposition to the bases, especially in the Philippine Senate.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has been in Washington for talks aimed at narrowing differences with the

Americans over the duration of an extension and how much the United States must pay for their use.

President Corason Aquino's government had insisted that American forces leave the country after seven years and that Washington pay \$825 million a year to continue using the bases. The Americans offered about \$320 million a year and had hoped for a 10- to 12-year phasedown.

On Thursday, Philippine sources said a draft extension agreement would leave open the possibility that the bases could remain beyond seven years.

## Slovenia to stop sending recruits to army

LIJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Slovenia decided Thursday to stop sending recruits for compulsory military service in the Yugoslav army in another challenge to crumbling central authority.

Parliament in the small, independence-minded Western republic adopted a law specifying that it would send servicemen to the army only if the soldiers themselves demanded it, the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said.

It said that otherwise, Slovenian recruits would serve in the local defence force or state police.

There are no immediate comment from federal authorities, but Col. Milan Aksemitjevic, the only deputy in Slovenia's legislature to vote against the draft law, described it as "part of a scenario aimed at the breakup of Yugoslavia."

Replying to a question on how the military leadership would react to the new law, Aksemitjevic told reporters it would ignore unilateral legal changes by individual states that affect the federal armed forces.

More than half of the 180,000-strong federal armed force consist of conscripts serving for one year. Slovenia and its ally Croatia have been at odds with the Communist-dominated army and Serbian republic over the future of the federation.

Slovenia, a republic of 2 million people bordering Austria and Italy, and neighbouring Croatia want the federation transformed into a loose association of independent states. Serbia and the army seek the retention of the current federal structure.

In a plebiscite last Dec. 23, nearly 90 per cent of Slovenian voters called for full sovereignty and independence from Yugoslavia within six months.

Slovenia already has decided to cut military service to seven months. On average, about 12,000 Slovenes are drafted into the armed forces annually.

## Pakistan, U.S. still deadlocked over nuclear project

WASHINGTON (AP) — Relations between India and Pakistan have improved but Pakistan remains unwilling to abandon a reported quest for atomic weapons, Congress was told.

State and Defence Department officials said U.S. aid to Pakistan will remain suspended until and unless President George Bush is able to certify to Congress that the South Asian country does not possess or is not building a nuclear explosive device.

Military and economic assistance was suspended last October for lack of certification. The nuclear issue remains unresolved, the House Asian and Pacific Subcommittee was told at a Thursday public hearing.

Meanwhile, the administration certified earlier this week that last October's Pakistan election installing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's rightwing Islamic Democratic Alliance and unseating former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was generally fair and free, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Teresa Schaffer testified.

U.S. law requires the certification for certain major recipients of American aid.

Ms. Schaffer and Assistant Defence Secretary Henry S. Rowen said they hope continuing talks with the Sharif government will allow resumption of aid to Pakistan, which until last year's cutoff received the seventh largest U.S. assistance package in the world.

Tension between India and Pakistan over disputed Kashmir "is perceptibly lower than it was last spring," Ms. Schaffer said. She voiced hope that the two neighbours soon may agree on "military confidence-building measures which could contribute positive momentum to the relationship while reducing the risk of stumbling into conflict."

Ms. Schaffer described Indian Prime Minister Chandrasekhar's resignation this week as a surprise which "throws the Indian political scene into disarray."

The Bush administration proposed \$239 million for Pakistan in its fiscal 1992 budget, about half the 1991 level, with the understanding the money would be shifted to other countries if the nuclear dispute remains unresolved.

Subcommittee Chairman Stephen Solarz urged allocating the funds to others now, or at least fixing a deadline for settling the nuclear dispute.

Ms. Schaffer replied that the request for Pakistan demonstrated that "we have an important relationship and consider it very important ... to lose no opportunity to deal with these issues."

## Mandela lawyer accuses witness of seeking publicity

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Winnie Mandela's lawyer accused a witness in her kidnapping and assault trial of being a publicity-seeker who hoped to profit from "peddling" stories that Mrs. Mandela beat him and three others.

During two hours of cross-examination, attorney George Bizos tried to show that witness Kenneth Kgase sought out newspapers in South Africa and abroad to publish accounts of the alleged crime.

"Your story that you have been peddling would not have been worth very much if you had not implicated Mrs. Mandela," Bizos said.

"I'm not here to implicate anyone," Kgase responded. "I have no reason to implicate Mrs. Mandela. I'm her victim."

It was Kgase's second day on the stand in the sensational trial, which began Feb. 8.

Mrs. Mandela, the wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, and three co-defendants have pleaded innocent to four counts each of kidnapping and assault.

Prosecutors allege the defendants abducted Kgase and three other young men from a Methodist Church home on Dec. 29, 1988, and beat them in Mrs. Mandela's Soweto home. One of them, 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, was later killed.

Earlier Thursday, Kgase testified he was forced to hold down a struggling man while Mrs. Man-

dela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, stabbed him in the neck with garden shears. The man, who survived, apparently had refused to join Mrs. Mandela's now-disbanded bodyguard unit.

Asked why he held the man, Kgase said, "I had no other option."

The 31-year-old witness said he escaped from Mrs. Mandela's home on Jan. 7, 1989, nine days after the alleged abduction.

Richardson was convicted last year in Seipei's death and is appealing a death sentence.

Prosecutors say Richardson and the other defendants were motivated by allegations the young men had homosexual relations with a minister.

After a day and a half of damaging testimony, the defence tried to poke holes in Kgase's story by pointing out contradictions with statements made in Richardson's trial.

Kgase testified earlier that he could not positively say he assaulted Seipei. At Mrs. Mandela's trial, however, he said co-defendant Xoliswa Palati beat the teenager.

"Is that what you made up the defence case?" the defence asked.

Kgase appeared tired, frequently wiping his forehead and eyes. He did not look at Mrs. Mandela or the other defendants, although Mrs. Mandela watched him carefully and at one point shook her head.

## Army vows support for Pinochet despite abuses

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The army has declared "unrestricted loyalty" to its commander in chief, former president Gen. Augusto Pinochet in the face of criticism of massive human rights abuses during his long reign.

In a communique, the army's 31 generals flatly rejected demands from Socialist and other leftist politicians for Pinochet's resignation for his responsibility in the rights violations.

The generals said their communique "represents the position of the entire institution."

The communique was issued as the army generals corps began a closed meeting to study a report disclosed earlier in the week by President Patricio Aylwin on human rights violations during Pinochet's 16½ year rule.

At the end of the meeting, the generals are expected to issue a formal statement commenting on the report which said 2,115 dissidents were killed for political reasons during the military regime, which ended a year ago.

It also said torture of political prisoners was common, including electric shocks, beatings and sexual abuse.

Although the report did not disclose any names of suspected

human rights violators, it made clear those responsible were members of the armed forces and the national police.

It said the worst atrocities were committed by a now disbanded secret police agency organised by the military known as Dina, which reported directly to Pinochet in his double capacity as president and army commander.

Pinochet, said the report written by a nine-member special investigative panel, "accumulated an amount of power never seen in Chile before."

The reference was widely interpreted by several Socialist politicians and other leftists as a proof of Pinochet's responsibility for the abuses. They said the 75-year-old general should resign from the army, which he still commands.

The vice president of Aylwin's own Christian Democratic Party, Genaro Arriagada, Thursday joined the demands for Pinochet's resignation.

Pinochet retained the army command after turning over the presidency to Aylwin, sheltered by a clause in the 1980 constitution written by his regime. The same clause prevents Aylwin from firing him.

## Indian president struggles to solve government crisis

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman was struggling Friday to break a deadlock between Rajiv Gandhi's Congress and other parties over who should govern India until an early general election, politicians said.

Venkataraman has been consulting constitutional experts and receiving leaders of the major parties to resolve the issue since Prime Minister Chandrasekhar resigned Wednesday.

Politicians expect polls as early as May to elect a prime minister to replace Shekhar, who said he quit in disgust over the kind of support Congress had provided his minority government during its four months of existence.

As head of the biggest party in parliament, Gandhi hopes to be named caretaker prime minister to enjoy the advantages of incumbency during the election campaign, Congress sources said.

Other politicians said Shekhar was also staking a claim to be caretaker, on grounds of Indian parliamentary tradition.

Shekhar's claim is backed by all other major parties in the fragmented Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), elected in 1989 polls which ended Congress's long hold on power.

The deadlock has prevented parliament from approving a controversial interim budget which Shekhar presented just before he quit. It must be passed to fund the government from the new financial year starting on April 1.

"We have misgivings about the conduct of Congress," Hindu political leader Lal Krishan Advani said in an interview.

"They're trying to seduce people from other parties and on that basis form a government," said Advani, of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the second largest in the Lok Sabha.

"That's why we want parliament dissolved as soon as the financial business is over."

The BJP, like the other parties opposing Congress, has promised to vote the interim budget through — provided Venkataraman promises to dissolve parliament immediately afterwards so that an election can be called.

The Lok Sabha has adjourned until Monday.

BJP leaders met Venkataraman Friday and said they urged him to come to a quick decision.

Shekhar's finance minister, Yashwant Sinha, also met the president to discuss how to get the interim budget passed, Indian news agencies said.

Gandhi's 197 Lok Sabha members kept Shekhar in power. Shekhar has only 54 supporters, a tenth of the chamber's strength.

The bitter dissolution of the alliance has made Gandhi apprehensive of allowing Shekhar to govern in the run-up to polls, the Congress sources said.

Shekhar accused Congress in a nationally-televised broadcast Thursday of behaving irresponsibly and plunging the country into a constitutional crisis.

Congress appeared to have forced Shekhar to resign when it walked out of parliament Tuesday, accusing the government of posting two policemen at Gandhi's house to keep a watch on him.

Gandhi has said he did not expect Shekhar to resign.

Some senior Congress politicians say the party is not ready to face elections now.

But Gandhi, son of assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said Thursday: "We have not staked a claim (to govern) ... we are ready, today, tomorrow, any time, for elections."

**Kashmiri kidnappers free hostage**

SRINAGAR (AP) — A parliament member's daughter, kidnapped 10 days ago while pregnant with her second child, was reunited with her family Friday after the government reportedly freed five jailed Kashmiri Muslim militants.

Naheeda Akhtar, 30, collapsed and fainted in the arms of her husband and his parents when police delivered her to her home at 11 a.m. (0530 GMT) Friday.

She declined to answer questions about her captivity, saying "I don't know anything."

The Jammu-Kashmir Students Liberation Front had claimed responsibility for Mrs. Akhtar's abduction and had demanded the government release five comrades in exchange for her freedom.

## Benin president may reject election results

CONTONOU, Benin (AP) — President Mathieu Kerekou has raised fears he will not accept the results of Sunday's presidential election by saying he will intervene if the balloting appears rigged or is marred by violence.

Kerekou supporters already have stoned supporters of his opponents and ransacked the office of the leading opposing candidate. Rumours of planned assassination attempts on the president's opponents have swept the country.

Opponents say Kerekou has been spreading the rumours to create a climate that will permit him to stay in power.

Nicéphore Soglo, prime minister of the transition government Kerekou was forced to set up a year ago, urged Benin voters to ignore the pre-election violence and rumours.

In a radio address Thursday night, Soglo said, "regrettable incidents have occurred, which we have all deplored, and with us, the whole world, which has its eyes fixed on our democratic experiment."

Soglo added the security of voters would be guaranteed and they should "rise up. Do not allow anyone to bring you back to your knees again.... Go and vote for the candidate of your choice, freely, in keeping with your soul and conscience. That is the price of your freedom. Be not afraid."

Western diplomats said Thursday that Kerekou's threat, in a statement released the day before, supported suspicions he will not step down if defeated in the voting.

## Italians seek missing Albanian refugee boat

BRINDISI, Italy (R) Italian coastguards searched Friday for an Albanian fishing boat, with 25 refugees on board, reported as missing in rough seas after sending a distress signal during the night.

"The Nikogiro is at present listed as missing, but we really have no idea where to look for it," a coastguard official said at the southern Italian port of Bari.

The small boat was part of a ragtag fleet of ships commandeered by thousands of Albanians trying to flee their impoverished Balkan country and cross the narrow straits to Italy.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli said Thursday most of the Albanians would be sent back. The full Italian cabinet was due to meet later Friday to discuss the emergency.

The exodus has caught Italian authorities unprepared and in the port of Brindisi, hundreds of hungry Albanians fought with police early Friday morning as they stampeded towards relief workers handing out bread and milk.

Thousands of refugees had to spend the night in the open on the docks in Brindisi, sleeping under sheets of plastic.

An Italian Navy patrol plane flew over the Adriatic at dawn to try and spot the Nikogiro, which Lloyds Shipping Information in London had reported as sinking off Bari.

They said the search was complicated by the fact the vessel had given conflicting information on its position.

"Maybe the people sailing this boat don't know how to take readings properly or maybe with these rough seas they just can't give a bearing, but it makes it very difficult for us to know in which area it is meant to be," an official said.

Up to 15,000 refugees have made the crossing to Italy in the past week from the southern Albanian ports of Durres and

Vlore. The ships they have taken over are either rusting steamers or old fishing boats that hardly look seaworthy.

Some of the refugees have told how they sailed the ships themselves although they had no knowledge of navigation. Italian pilot tugs and navy launches have had to tow many of those vessels into harbour or lift them off sandbanks.

Many of the ships are so crammed with passengers that they list heavily as they approach the coast.

Bari coastguards later said a vessel that might be the Nikogiro had been spotted by another ship off the Italian coast.

"A patrol plane is now heading for the area to check its identity. It seems to be the same type as the missing vessel and there are not all that many boats out there, but we can't say for sure at the moment," an official said.

The reported sighting turned out to be a false trail but coastguards said they had monitored a radio message from the missing ship, showing it had not sunk.

We still do not know where the Nikogiro is, but we did pick up a brief radio message it sent to the Albanian port of Durres an hour ago," an official said.

He said a second patrol plane had joined in the search and that the whole southern coast was now being combed.

Severe food shortages and political turmoil at home, coupled with increased contacts with the outside world, have provided the impetus for a new mass exodus of Albanians, diplomats and local journalists said.

"People are obsessed with the idea of getting out of the country," an Albanian journalist said by telephone. "It's like a disease, a plague."

"They see how little they earn, and how little they can buy with it, and say: 'What's the point?'"

## Salvadoreans to elect new legislature

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Salvadoreans Sunday choose a new legislature and municipal authorities in elections that, for the first time in the 11-year-old civil war, are free from guerrilla threats of violence.

Because of an expanded electorate and a broad range of ideological options, Sunday's vote could be the most participatory in this small Central American nation's history.

The leftist Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, an insurgent army known as the FMLN, has declared a weekend truce.

The rebels have denounced as "illegitimate" five previous nationwide elections since 1982, maintaining they were part of a U.S. orchestrated counter-insurgency project.

The FMLN has marked previous days with increased attacks, augmented sabotage of electric infrastructure and road transport bans that have hampered voter turnout.

But Leonel Gonzalez, one of the top insurgent commanders, said last month: "This election takes place in a completely different framework. We welcome the effort being made by the opposi-

tion parties. If the result of the election is that the opposition wins a majority in the legislature, that will favour the process of negotiating peace."

For the past 11 months, the rebels and the rightist government of President Alfredo Cristiani have held peace talks under the auspices of the United Nations.

The FMLN, after years of pursuing military victory, has publicly acknowledged that it cannot defeat the U.S.-backed armed forces and that its objectives have changed.

Rebeca Palacios, a top guerrilla commander who recently left the battlefield to join the FMLN's Mexico-based political-diplomatic commission, said the armed struggle has reached a point of diminishing returns.

"We must make an inventory, take our profit and leave our investment," she said in an interview this week in Mexico. Disavowing the original FMLN goal of taking power, she said the current objective is "to reach negotiated accords that provide us reasonable advantages and to reach a ceasefire."

She said the revolutionary movement foresees a near future of political, rather than military, competition.

"This is already under way, with the participation of leftist forces in the political process. It is necessary to rethink things, to construct the political offensive," she said.

She said the FMLN's eventual political participation "will not be as a Marxist party, which is bankrupt, but will be something beyond the five guerrilla organisations — broader and not necessarily even led by the FMLN — that will put forth a project of political concertation."

Cristiani's Republican Nationalist Alliance, or Arena, enjoys a majority in the current legislature.

The latest poll by the prestigious Public Opinion Institute of the Central American University gave Arena 28.8 per cent of the vote and the combined opposition 23.5 per cent.

The undecided vote — 27.2 per cent of the electorate on March 2 — is considered the key to whether Arena retains its legislative majority.

A registration drive has increased the electorate from 1.3

million in 1989 presidential balloting to 2.15 million eligible for Sunday's vote.

The Nationalist Democratic Union, a party with a traditional Communist style, is participating for the first time since 1977. The centrist Christian Democrats, who governed from 1984-89, are in second place behind Arena in the university poll, followed by a left-leaning coalition called the Democratic Convergence.

Shafick Handal, one of the FMLN's top five commanders, told the Associated Press in Mexico this week that participation of leftist parties means "that for the first time there is a possibility that the legislative assembly is not part of the counter-insurgency."

Labour federations traditionally aligned with the FMLN have encouraged their members — most of whom boycotted previous elections — to cast their ballot for the convergence.

More than a dozen organisations, including several U.S.-based groups, are set to monitor the elections. The largest delegation, 160 members, is from the Organisation of American States (OAS).

## COLUMN

### Man out of coma after 8 years, identifies attackers

HIGH POINT, North Carolina (AP) — A man who had been in a coma since he was beaten eight years ago has regained consciousness and given authorities the names of his attackers. Conley Holbrook, 26, Tuesday said he felt "all right."

Holbrook knew exactly what to say when he came out of the coma on Feb. 26. He looked at his mother and said "Momma." He then gave the names of the two people who beat him on the head with a log on Nov. 27, 1982. The people he named are relatives of his family.

No arrests had been made early Tuesday, said the Davidson County Sheriff's Department. Holbrook said friends, relatives and reporters had been calling to talk since he was released from a hospital Monday. Until last week, Holbrook couldn't speak.

He could open his eyes and smile but wasn't aware of anything and was bedridden and in the constant care of relatives. The recovery occurred while Holbrook was being treated for pneumonia at Lexington Memorial Hospital, his mother said in an interview published in the High Point Enterprise. She said her son was assaulted in the front yard of the family's home in Linwood. "We kind of knew all along who it was that did it," Mrs. Holbrook said.

"I just had to wait until Conley told me." "This has shocked everybody," said Holbrook's 29-year-old brother, Glenn. "I was astonished," Mrs. Holbrook said. "I never gave up on him. This is just a miracle. It's good to have him home talking."

### Daughter finds birth mother is co-worker